



National Spatial Data Infrastructure

Public Review Draft – Digital Cartographic Standard for Geologic Map Symbolization

Geologic Data Subcommittee
Federal Geographic Data Committee

April 2000

Federal Geographic Data Committee

Department of Agriculture • Department of Commerce • Department of Defense • Department of Energy
Department of Housing and Urban Development • Department of the Interior • Department of State
Department of Transportation • Environmental Protection Agency
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42 Federal Geographic Data Committee

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47
48 The FGDC is composed of representatives from the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Energy,
49 Housing and Urban Development, the Interior, State, and Transportation; the Environmental Protection Agency;
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51 Administration; the National Archives and Records Administration; and the Tennessee Valley Authority.
52 Additional Federal agencies participate on FGDC subcommittees and working groups. The Department of the
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55 FGDC subcommittees work on issues related to data categories coordinated under the circular. Subcommittees
56 establish and implement standards for data content, quality, and transfer; encourage the exchange of information
57 and the transfer of data; and organize the collection of geographic data to reduce duplication of effort. Working
58 groups are established for issues that transcend data categories.

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CONTENTS

| | Page |
|--|------|
| 1. Introduction | 1 |
| 1.1 Objective..... | 1 |
| 1.2 Scope..... | 1 |
| 1.3 Applicability | 1 |
| 1.4 Related Standards..... | 1 |
| 1.5 Standards Development Procedures | 1 |
| 1.6 Maintenance Authority..... | 2 |
| 2. Background | 3 |
| 2.1 Relation to Previous U.S. Geological Survey Standards..... | 3 |
| 2.2 Changes from Previous Standards | 3 |
| 2.3 Preparers of This Draft Standard | 4 |
| 3. Technical Specifications Used in Preparation of This Standard | 5 |
| 3.1 Units for Lineweights, Lengths, and Distances..... | 5 |
| 3.2 Type Specifications | 7 |
| 3.3 Color Specifications for Line and Point Symbols..... | 7 |
| 3.4 Color Specifications for Map-Unit Areas | 8 |
| 3.5 Pattern Specifications..... | 9 |
| 3.6 Geologic Age Symbol Font..... | 10 |
| 4. Guidelines for Symbol Usage | 10 |
| 4.1 Line Symbols | 10 |
| 4.1.1 Contacts | 11 |
| 4.1.2 Faults..... | 11 |
| 4.1.3 Folds | 11 |
| 4.2 Point Symbols | 11 |
| 4.3 Geologic Time and Ages of Rock Units..... | 11 |
| 4.4 Color and Patterns | 12 |
| 5. Guidelines for Color Design..... | 12 |
| 5.1 Factors That Influence Color Selection..... | 12 |
| 5.1.1 Purpose of Map | 12 |
| 5.1.2 Age and Type of Rock | 12 |
| 5.1.3 Size of Map Areas..... | 13 |
| 5.1.4 Contrast | 13 |
| 5.2 Specifying Color Values..... | 13 |
| 5.3 Use of Patterns | 13 |
| 5.3.1 Overprint Patterns | 14 |
| 5.3.2 Dropout Patterns | 14 |
| 6. Guidelines for Map Labeling..... | 14 |
| 6.1 Strategies for Map Labeling | 14 |
| 6.2 Font Selection | 15 |
| 6.3 Type Size and Style | 15 |
| 6.4 Label Placement | 15 |
| 6.5 Leader Placement..... | 15 |
| 7. Acknowledgments..... | 16 |
| 8. References..... | 16 |
| 9. Index to Introductory Text and Appendix A | 17 |

TABLES

| | Page |
|---|------|
| 1. Chart Showing Conversion Values from Inches (in) to Points (pts) to Millimeters (mm) | 6 |
| 2. Abbreviations Used in this Draft Standard | 8 |
| 2A. Color and Pattern Names | 8 |
| 2B. Measurements | 8 |
| 2C. Type Styles and Sizes | 8 |
| 3. Spot Color Specifications and Their Equivalent Colors in Other Color Models..... | 9 |

PLATES

A. CMYK Color Chart

B. Pattern Chart

APPENDIX A

| | Page |
|---|--------|
| 1. Contacts, Key Beds, and Dikes | A-1-1 |
| 1.1 Contacts | A-1-1 |
| 1.2 Key Beds | A-1-2 |
| 1.3 Dikes | A-1-4 |
| 2. Faults | A-2-1 |
| 2.1 Faults (Vertical, Subvertical, Reverse, or Unspecified Offset or Orientation); Shear Zones; Minor Faults | A-2-1 |
| 2.2 Normal Faults | A-2-2 |
| 2.3 Strike-Slip Faults | A-2-2 |
| 2.4 Thrust Faults | A-2-3 |
| 2.5 Overturned Thrust Faults | A-2-4 |
| 2.6 Detachment Faults | A-2-5 |
| 3. Boundaries Located by Geophysical Surveys | A-3-1 |
| 3.1 Boundaries and Faults Located by Geophysical Methods | A-3-1 |
| 3.2 Geophysical Survey Lines and Stations | A-3-1 |
| 4. Lineaments and Joints | A-4-1 |
| 5. Folds | A-5-1 |
| 5.1 Anticlines; Antiforms | A-5-1 |
| 5.2 Asymmetric, Overturned, and Inverted Anticlines | A-5-3 |
| 5.3 Synclines; Synforms | A-5-4 |
| 5.4 Asymmetric, Overturned, and Inverted Synclines | A-5-5 |
| 5.5 Monoclines | A-5-6 |
| 5.6 Minor Folds; Boudinage | A-5-7 |
| 5.7 Free-Form Fold Symbolology | A-5-8 |
| 6. Bedding | A-6-1 |
| 7. Cleavage | A-7-1 |
| 8. Foliation | A-8-1 |
| 8.1 Foliation and Layering in Igneous Rock | A-8-1 |
| 8.2 Foliation and Layering in Metamorphic Rock | A-8-2 |
| 9. Lineation | A-9-1 |
| 10. Paleontological Features | A-10-1 |
| 10.1 Fossil Localities; Biostratigraphic Zone Boundary | A-10-1 |
| 10.2 Fossil Symbols | A-10-1 |
| 11. Isopleths | A-11-1 |
| 11.1 Lines of Equal Physical or Chemical Properties | A-11-1 |
| 11.2 Geophysical and Structure Contours | A-11-1 |
| 12. Fluvial and Alluvial Features | A-12-1 |
| 13. Glacial and Glaciofluvial Features | A-13-1 |
| 14. Periglacial Features | A-14-1 |
| 15. Lacustrine and Marine Features | A-15-1 |
| 16. Eolian Features | A-16-1 |
| 17. Landslide and Mass-Wasting Features | A-17-1 |
| 18. Volcanic Features | A-18-1 |
| 19. Natural Resources | A-19-1 |
| 19.1 Veins and Mineralized Areas; Metamorphic Facies Boundary; Mineral Resource Areas | A-19-1 |
| 19.2 Areas of Extensively Disturbed Ground and Workings as Mapped Units | A-19-2 |
| 19.3 Mining and Mineral-Exploration Symbolology | A-19-3 |
| 19.4 Mines and Underground Workings | A-19-4 |
| 19.5 Oil and Gas Fields; Wells Drilled for Hydrocarbon Exploration or Exploitation | A-19-6 |

| | Page |
|-----|--|
| 185 | |
| 186 | 20. Hazardous Waste Sites A-20-1 |
| 187 | 21. Neotectonic and Earthquake-Hazard Features A-21-1 |
| 188 | 22. Plate-Tectonic Features A-22-1 |
| 189 | 23. Miscellaneous Uplift and Collapse Features A-23-1 |
| 190 | 24. Terrestrial Impact-Crater Features A-24-1 |
| 191 | 25. Planetary Geology Features..... A-25-1 |
| 192 | 26. Hydrologic Features A-26-1 |
| 193 | 26.1 Hydrography and Hydrologic Feature Identification Symbology A-26-1 |
| 194 | 26.2 Water Wells A-26-5 |
| 195 | 26.3 Water Gaging Stations A-26-6 |
| 196 | 26.4 Quality-of-Water Sites A-26-6 |
| 197 | 26.5 Springs A-26-7 |
| 198 | 26.6 Miscellaneous Hydrologic Symbols..... A-26-7 |
| 199 | 27. Weather Stations..... A-27-1 |
| 200 | 28. Transportation Features A-28-1 |
| 201 | 29. Boundaries A-29-1 |
| 202 | 30. Topographic Features..... A-30-1 |
| 203 | 31. Miscellaneous Map Elements A-31-1 |
| 204 | 32. Explanation for Pattern Chart (Plate B)..... A-32-1 |
| 205 | 33. Suggested Stratigraphic-Age and Volcanic Map-Unit Colors A-33-1 |
| 206 | 33.1 Stratigraphic-Age Map-Unit Colors A-33-1 |
| 207 | 33.2 Volcanic Map-Unit Colors..... A-33-1 |
| 208 | 34. Explanation for CMYK Color Chart (Plate A) A-34-1 |
| 209 | 35. Bar Scales A-35-1 |
| 210 | 36. Mean Declination Arrows..... A-36-1 |
| 211 | 36.1 Magnetic North, East of True North..... A-36-1 |
| 212 | 36.2 Magnetic North, West of True North..... A-36-3 |
| 213 | 37. Quadrangle Location Maps A-37-1 |
| 214 | 37.1 Individual States; District of Columbia; Guam; Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands..... A-37-1 |
| 215 | 37.2 Conterminous States A-37-3 |
| 216 | 38. Geologic Age Symbol Font (StratagemAge)..... A-38-1 |

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Objective

This new draft standard is intended to provide to the Nation's producers and users of geologic map information a single, modern standard for the digital cartographic representation of geologic features. The objective in developing this national standard for geologic map symbols, colors, and patterns is to aid in the production of geologic maps and related products, as well as to help provide maps and products that have a consistent appearance.

1.2 Scope

This new draft standard contains descriptions, examples, cartographic specifications, and notes on usage for a wide variety of symbols that may be used on typical digital geologic maps or related products such as cross sections. The standard is scale-independent, meaning that the symbols are appropriate for use with geologic mapping compiled or published at any scale. It is designed for use by anyone who either produces or uses digital geologic map information.

1.3 Applicability

This new draft standard applies to any geologic map information published by the Federal Government, whether released as hard-copy (in either offset-print or plot-on-demand format) or electronically (as either Portable Document Format (PDF) files or for computer-monitor display only). Non-Federal agencies and private companies that produce geologic map information are urged to adopt this standard as well.

1.4 Related Standards

This new draft standard will supersede any existing U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) formal or informal cartographic standards for geologic map information.

During preparation of this new draft standard, its relation to other standards or standards-development activities was assessed, and no significant conflicts were found. For example, the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Standard 710, Parts 1–4, describes a general schema for graphical display of a selected set of geologic map symbols. Although similar to some that are included in this new draft standard, they were found to have limited applicability. In addition, similar standards have been developed in other agencies of the Federal Government, including the U.S. Forest Service (in the geology component of their Terra database) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (in the geology component of their Tri-Service CADD-GIS Spatial Data Standards). These were found to be somewhat specialized and limited in their coverage of geologic map features. Conversely, this new draft standard provides comprehensive coverage of symbology for a broad range of geologic map features.

1.5 Standards Development Procedures

This new draft standard has been developed by members of the USGS Geologic Division's Western Publications Group and National Geologic Map Database (NGMDB) project. It draws heavily upon previous work by USGS geologic and cartographic personnel (U.S. Geological Survey, ca. 1975, 1995a, 1995b), and the standards-development group gratefully acknowledges their contributions.

In 1995, a proposed standard was informally released by the USGS (U.S. Geological Survey, 1995a, 1995b). In 1996, this proposed standard was formally reviewed by geologists and cartographers in the USGS, the Association of American State Geologists (AASG), which represents the state geological surveys, and the Federal Geographic Data Committee's (FGDC) Geologic Data Subcommittee (GDS), which is composed mostly of representatives from Federal agencies that produce or use geologic map information. That review (Soller, 1996) indicated the need for some revision to the proposed standard prior to its consideration by the FGDC for adoption as a Federal standard.

In 1996, plans were outlined to create a revised and updated Federal standard, and the standards-development group was formed. A proposal to develop the revised standard was submitted by the FGDC's GDS (see http://ncgmp.usgs.gov/fgdc_gds/mapsymbprop.html), and the FGDC accepted that proposal in 1997. Later that year, the standards-development group produced a preliminary, beta version

of the draft standard, which was circulated among selected USGS and state geological survey personnel for review. Comments were incorporated and, in 1999, the revised draft standard (Working Draft) was submitted to the FGDC's GDS for consideration. Upon review and subsequent approval by the GDS, the Working Draft was submitted to the FGDC Standards Working Group, which approved the document for public review, pending adoption of minor changes. The changes were made, and this new draft standard document (Public Review Draft) is now available to the public for review and comment.

Upon completion of the 120-day public review period, comments to the Public Review Draft will be considered, and any necessary revisions will be made. The revised draft standard document then will be submitted to the FGDC for formal approval as the Federal standard for geologic map symbolization.

After the standard is formally approved by the FGDC, the intention is that it will become a “living” standard—that is, it will be maintained and revised as needed to reflect new mapping disciplines or evolving usage conventions. The initial release of the FGDC-approved standard document will be available in printed form and supplemented by an electronic (PDF) version. Thereafter, updates to the standard document will be reflected in an online version, which will become the authoritative reference.

To help users maintain an up-to-date hard-copy version of the standard document, the initial release will be printed in “loose-leaf” format. Subsequent updates to the standard document will be made available in PDF format only, which could then be printed on a local output device and inserted where appropriate into a loose-leaf binder.

Because this new standard is intended for use with digital applications, an electronic implementation of the Public Review Draft has been prepared in PostScript format, and it is informally released as a USGS Open-File Report (USGS, 1999). This PostScript implementation will enable reviewers to directly apply the standard to geologic maps or illustrations prepared in desktop illustration and (or) publishing software. As the formally approved standard evolves, the PostScript implementation will be updated as well. Additionally, partial work on an ArcInfo (v. 7x) implementation has been completed, and this implementation may also be informally released as a USGS Open-File Report in the future. Information regarding updates to these and other implementation efforts will be posted on FGDC's GDS website (http://ncgmp.usgs.gov/fgdc_gds).

The Public Review Draft document is available in both printed and PDF formats. For information on the review mechanism and the deadline for submittal of review comments, as well as on how to obtain copies of the Public Review Draft, please see FGDC's GDS website (http://ncgmp.usgs.gov/fgdc_gds). Questions or comments may be addressed by e-mail to mapsymbol@geology.usgs.gov or, if preferred, by regular mail to Map Symbol Review, c/o David R. Soller, National Geologic Map Database project, U.S. Geological Survey, 908 National Center, Reston, Virginia, 20192.

1.6 Maintenance Authority

On behalf of the FGDC, the USGS will maintain the Federal standard; the responsibility for coordinating Federal geologic mapping information is stipulated by Office of Management and Budget Circular A-16 (see <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars/a016/a016.html>). The Geologic Mapping Act of 1992 (and subsequent reauthorizations) stipulates a requirement for standards development under the auspices of the National Geologic Map Database (NGMDB). Under this authority, the NGMDB project will function on behalf of the USGS as coordinator of this maintenance activity (see <http://ncgmp.usgs.gov/ngmdbproject/standards/general.html>). Maintenance will be conducted in cooperation primarily with the AASG, which is the USGS's partner in the Geologic Mapping Act.

To assist in its maintenance efforts, the NGMDB project will coordinate a standing committee that, as needed, will review comments and suggestions for revisions, additions, and deletions to the standard. Committee membership will be drawn from, among others, the NGMDB project, the USGS scientific staff and Publications Groups, the AASG, and the academic community. This standards-maintenance mechanism will be tested by forming the committee before completion of the FGDC public review period, so that the committee might both help the GDS evaluate the comments received and assist in preparing the final version to be submitted for formal approval by the FGDC.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Relation to Previous U.S. Geological Survey Standards

For many years, mapmakers within the USGS relied on a set of technical specifications given in the informally named "Technical Cartographic Standards" volume (U.S. Geological Survey, ca. 1975). This informal standard was available to USGS cartographers and editors as a set of green, loose-leaf notebooks that allowed pages to be replaced as the standard evolved; this informal standard was maintained until the mid-1980s. The technical specifications were devised to serve the needs of cartographers at a time when maps were conventionally prepared for offset printing using hand-placed type, hand-scribed linework, and peelcoats. This informal standard served the USGS well, but it was not commonly available to other producers of geologic maps nor was it formally recognized as a standard by the Nation's geoscience community.

Beginning roughly in the mid-1980s, digital technologies for mapmaking were both rapidly evolving and becoming more widely available. The gradual adoption of digitally based mapmaking methods necessitated the development of new standards that would address the requirements of the new technology, both for the digital production of negatives for offset printing and for the preparation of digital files for plot-on-demand or online publications. In response to the steady increase in mapmaking using digital technology and the accompanying concern about the difficulties in preparing high-quality, consistently produced digital maps, the U.S. Geological Survey informally released in 1995 a proposed standard entitled "Cartographic and digital standard for geologic map information" (U.S. Geological Survey, 1995a; see also, 1995b). As was noted above, subsequent review of that document by the USGS, the AASG, and the FGDC's GDS (Soller, 1996) indicated the need for some revision prior to its consideration by the FGDC for adoption as a Federal standard.

2.2 Changes from Previous Standards

In this new draft standard (contained in (normative) appendix A), descriptions, examples, cartographic specifications, and notes on usage are provided for a wide variety of symbols that may be used on typical digital geologic maps or related products such as cross sections. In the preparation of this standard, every effort was made to retain the original symbols and their specifications from the 1995 USGS proposed standard (U.S. Geological Survey, 1995a); however, many updates have been incorporated into this new version. The number of symbols has increased significantly, from about 800 to almost 1200. Symbols are more logically grouped; some sections have been combined with others, and a few new sections have been added.

Many symbols, particularly lines, have been redesigned slightly so that they would more successfully translate to digital applications. For instance, in the old "Technical Cartographic Standards" volume (U.S. Geological Survey, ca. 1975), as well as in the 1995 USGS proposed standard (U.S. Geological Survey, 1995a), the lineweight for contacts was specified as .005 inches (.125 millimeters). However, experience has shown that .005-inch lines do not always plot well when digitally output by high-resolution imagesetters. Therefore, the minimum lineweight for contacts, as well as for most other stroked-line symbol elements, has been increased to .006 inches (.15 millimeters) in this new draft standard. In addition, the dash and gap lengths for many line symbols have been adjusted so that their dash-gap templates can be more easily defined electronically.

A newly revised chart that shows a wide range of CMYK colors has been included (plate A); an offset-print version of this chart has been in use at the USGS for many years, and the variety of colors has proved to be sufficient for portraying complex geology shown on most maps, regardless of the output medium. In addition, a chart that shows commonly used geologic patterns has been added (plate B); the patterns themselves are similar to what was in the 1995 USGS proposed standard, but most have undergone lineweight changes to facilitate digital output at high resolutions. The old pattern numbers have been revised and the patterns are now organized into seven geologically relevant series. A few new patterns have been added, and some have been eliminated. Both the color chart and the pattern chart display new numbering systems that may be used with generic lookup tables in digital applications.

Also included in this new draft standard is a diagram showing suggested stratigraphic-age and volcanic map-unit colors, and a new geologic age symbol font has been added. In addition, three new sections that

address map marginalia have been included: (1) a variety of bar scales, as well as calculation tables that show how to convert between inches, miles, and kilometers; (2) a series of mean declination arrows, showing magnetic north both east and west of true north; and (3) quadrangle location maps for each of the 50 states (and District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands), as well as a map of the 48 conterminous states (so that quadrangle locations covering more than one state can be shown).

A few new informational sections have been added to the introductory material in this draft standard. The section entitled "Guidelines for Symbol Usage" provides general information about some of the symbol categories in the draft standard. The section entitled "Guidelines for Color Design" provides useful information on color selection and the use of patterns. The section entitled "Guidelines for Map Labeling" provides recommendations on placement of text on a map.

In response to reviewer's comments (Soller, 1996), much of the first part of the 1995 USGS proposed standard has been abandoned because it was not pertinent to this standard (for example, the sections on map accuracy, geologic map content, metadata, and geocoding). In addition, no attempt has been made in this new standard to provide definitions for the geologic features represented by the various symbols. For such information, please refer to one of a number of reference books available; an excellent source is the American Geological Institute's Glossary of Geology (Bates and Jackson, 1987, 3rd ed.; Jackson, 1997, 4th ed.).

2.3 Preparers of This Draft Standard

This new draft standard document was prepared by members of the USGS Geologic Division's Western Publications Group for submittal to the FGDC as a Federal standard. Principal contributors to its preparation (which, unless otherwise noted, consists of both the Working Draft and the Public Review Draft) include the following individuals:

David R. Soller (USGS; Chief, National Geologic Map Database)—Coordinator, FGDC draft standard development.

Taryn A. Lindquist (USGS; Digital Map Specialist, Western Publications Group)—Editor and compiler, FGDC draft standard document; coordinator, PostScript and ArcInfo implementations; designer, line symbols for PostScript and ArcInfo implementations.

Sara Boore (USGS; Publication Graphics Specialist, Western Publications Group)—Designer, FGDC draft standard document, point and line symbols, color charts and patterns for PostScript implementation.

F. Craig Brunstein (USGS; Geologic Map Editor, Central Publications Group)—Technical reviewer, FGDC Working Draft.

Alessandro J. Donatich (USGS; Geologic Map Editor, Central Publications Group)—Technical reviewer, FGDC Working Draft.

Kevin Ghequiere (USGS; Cartographer, Western Publications Group)—Designer, patterns for PostScript implementation.

Richard D. Koch (USGS; Digital Map Specialist, Western Publications Group)—Designer, point symbols for ArcInfo implementation, geologic age symbol font.

Diane E. Lane (USGS; Geologic Map Editor, Central Publications Group)—Technical reviewer, FGDC Working Draft.

Susan E. Mayfield (USGS; Publication Graphics Specialist, Western Publications Group)—Designer, FGDC draft standard document, color charts and patterns for PostScript implementation.

Kathryn Nimz (USGS; Digital Map Specialist, Western Publications Group)—Designer, patterns for PostScript and ArcInfo implementations.

Glenn Schumacher (USGS; Publication Graphics Specialist, Western Publications Group)—Designer, bar scales, mean declination arrows, and quadrangle location maps.

Stephen L. Scott (USGS; Publication Graphics Specialist, Western Publications Group)—Designer, FGDC draft standard document, point symbols and line symbols for PostScript implementation.

Will Stettner (USGS; Cartographer, Eastern Publications Group)—Technical reviewer, FGDC Working Draft.

José F. Vigil (USGS; Motion Graphics Specialist, Western Publications Group)—Designer, geologic age symbol font.

Jan L. Zigler (USGS; Geologic Map Editor, Western Publications Group)—Technical reviewer, FGDC Working Draft.

3. TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS USED IN PREPARATION OF THIS STANDARD

The new draft standard (contained in appendix A) consists of geologic line and point symbols, geologic map-unit colors and patterns, a geologic age symbol font, and related map marginalia. This section provides some technical discussion regarding preparation of the draft standard and its implementations in PostScript and ArcInfo formats.

3.1 Units for Lineweights, Lengths, and Distances

In this draft standard, as well as in the 1995 USGS proposed standard, the cartographic specifications for lineweights, lengths, and distances are given in millimeters, in accordance with the Federal standard for metrification. For ease of use, lengths have been specified in whole- or half-integer values whenever possible, and lineweights and distances have been rounded to the nearest .05 mm or, in some cases, .025 mm.

The millimeter specifications were converted from those given in thousandths of an inch in previous standards (for example, U.S. Geological Survey, ca. 1975). In these older versions, the thousandths-of-an-inch specifications corresponded to the widths of the engraving tools used to scribe the linework. A chart showing values used when converting from inches to millimeters has been included (table 1).

In the ArcInfo implementation of this new draft standard (in preparation), the original thousandths-of-an-inch specifications were retained when designing digital versions of the symbols, because ArcInfo requires lineweights and such to be specified in inches. In the PostScript implementation, however, lineweights were specified in points (see table 1 for conversion values from inches to points). This is because the preliminary, beta version of the draft standard document was prepared using Adobe Illustrator 6.0, which required lineweights to be specified in points. Although the Public Review Draft document was prepared using Adobe Illustrator 8.0, which allows lineweights to be specified in inches, the lineweights were still defined electronically in points. This is mainly because Illustrator 8.0 displays in its Stroke dialog box the values rounded to three significant figures; for example, a lineweight of .005 inches shows as 0.01 inches, and a lineweight of .004 inches shows as 0 inches. In reality, Illustrator 8.0 retains internally the original lineweight specifications to four or more significant figures; only the values shown in the dialog box are rounded to three figures. Nevertheless, to avoid any confusion when using the PostScript implementation, the lineweight specifications as originally defined in points were retained.

As an example of this unit-conversion process, consider the symbol for contacts (see p. A-1-1, appendix A). As was stated above, the lineweight for contacts was increased to .006 inches, and this value was converted to millimeters. The exact conversion of .006 inches is .152 millimeters (table 1), which was rounded to .15 millimeters as the cartographic standard. However, when preparing the preliminary, beta version of this draft standard document, the .15-millimeter lineweight was defined electronically in Adobe Illustrator 6.0 as .432 points (table 1). Therefore, in the PostScript implementation, the lineweight displayed (in the Stroke dialog box) is 0.43 points; in the ArcInfo implementation (in preparation), however, the original value of .006 inches is retained as the lineweight specification for contacts.

Complications from unit conversion arise not just when designing line symbols but also when creating point symbols and patterns, as most symbols are made of stroked lines. When creating symbols for a particular application, the user should choose whichever units work best in an application and then use the conversion table (table 1) to convert to those units.

Table 1. Chart showing conversion values from inches (in) to points (pts) to millimeters (mm).

| in | pts | mm | in | pts | mm | in | pts | mm | in | pts | mm |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|--------|-------|
| 0.001 | 0.072 | 0.025 | 0.051 | 3.672 | 1.295 | 0.101 | 7.272 | 2.565 | 0.151 | 10.872 | 3.835 |
| 0.002 | 0.144 | 0.051 | 0.052 | 3.744 | 1.321 | 0.102 | 7.344 | 2.591 | 0.152 | 10.944 | 3.861 |
| 0.003 | 0.216 | 0.076 | 0.053 | 3.816 | 1.346 | 0.103 | 7.416 | 2.616 | 0.153 | 11.016 | 3.886 |
| 0.004 | 0.288 | 0.102 | 0.054 | 3.888 | 1.372 | 0.104 | 7.488 | 2.642 | 0.154 | 11.088 | 3.912 |
| 0.005 | 0.360 | 0.127 | 0.055 | 3.960 | 1.397 | 0.105 | 7.560 | 2.667 | 0.155 | 11.160 | 3.937 |
| 0.006 | 0.432 | 0.152 | 0.056 | 4.032 | 1.422 | 0.106 | 7.632 | 2.692 | 0.156 | 11.232 | 3.962 |
| 0.007 | 0.504 | 0.178 | 0.057 | 4.104 | 1.448 | 0.107 | 7.704 | 2.718 | 0.157 | 11.304 | 3.988 |
| 0.008 | 0.576 | 0.203 | 0.058 | 4.176 | 1.473 | 0.108 | 7.776 | 2.743 | 0.158 | 11.376 | 4.013 |
| 0.009 | 0.648 | 0.229 | 0.059 | 4.248 | 1.499 | 0.109 | 7.848 | 2.769 | 0.159 | 11.448 | 4.039 |
| 0.010 | 0.720 | 0.254 | 0.060 | 4.320 | 1.524 | 0.110 | 7.920 | 2.794 | 0.160 | 11.520 | 4.064 |
| 0.011 | 0.792 | 0.279 | 0.061 | 4.392 | 1.549 | 0.111 | 7.992 | 2.819 | 0.161 | 11.592 | 4.089 |
| 0.012 | 0.864 | 0.305 | 0.062 | 4.464 | 1.575 | 0.112 | 8.064 | 2.845 | 0.162 | 11.664 | 4.115 |
| 0.013 | 0.936 | 0.330 | 0.063 | 4.536 | 1.600 | 0.113 | 8.136 | 2.870 | 0.163 | 11.736 | 4.140 |
| 0.014 | 1.008 | 0.356 | 0.064 | 4.608 | 1.626 | 0.114 | 8.208 | 2.896 | 0.164 | 11.808 | 4.166 |
| 0.015 | 1.080 | 0.381 | 0.065 | 4.680 | 1.651 | 0.115 | 8.280 | 2.921 | 0.165 | 11.880 | 4.191 |
| 0.016 | 1.152 | 0.406 | 0.066 | 4.752 | 1.676 | 0.116 | 8.352 | 2.946 | 0.166 | 11.952 | 4.216 |
| 0.017 | 1.224 | 0.432 | 0.067 | 4.824 | 1.702 | 0.117 | 8.424 | 2.972 | 0.167 | 12.024 | 4.242 |
| 0.018 | 1.296 | 0.457 | 0.068 | 4.896 | 1.727 | 0.118 | 8.496 | 2.997 | 0.168 | 12.096 | 4.267 |
| 0.019 | 1.368 | 0.483 | 0.069 | 4.968 | 1.753 | 0.119 | 8.568 | 3.023 | 0.169 | 12.168 | 4.293 |
| 0.020 | 1.440 | 0.508 | 0.070 | 5.040 | 1.778 | 0.120 | 8.640 | 3.048 | 0.170 | 12.240 | 4.318 |
| 0.021 | 1.512 | 0.533 | 0.071 | 5.112 | 1.803 | 0.121 | 8.712 | 3.073 | 0.171 | 12.312 | 4.343 |
| 0.022 | 1.584 | 0.559 | 0.072 | 5.184 | 1.829 | 0.122 | 8.784 | 3.099 | 0.172 | 12.384 | 4.369 |
| 0.023 | 1.656 | 0.584 | 0.073 | 5.256 | 1.854 | 0.123 | 8.856 | 3.124 | 0.173 | 12.456 | 4.394 |
| 0.024 | 1.728 | 0.610 | 0.074 | 5.328 | 1.880 | 0.124 | 8.928 | 3.150 | 0.174 | 12.528 | 4.420 |
| 0.025 | 1.800 | 0.635 | 0.075 | 5.400 | 1.905 | 0.125 | 9.000 | 3.175 | 0.175 | 12.600 | 4.445 |
| 0.026 | 1.872 | 0.660 | 0.076 | 5.472 | 1.930 | 0.126 | 9.072 | 3.200 | 0.176 | 12.672 | 4.470 |
| 0.027 | 1.944 | 0.686 | 0.077 | 5.544 | 1.956 | 0.127 | 9.144 | 3.226 | 0.177 | 12.744 | 4.496 |
| 0.028 | 2.016 | 0.711 | 0.078 | 5.616 | 1.981 | 0.128 | 9.216 | 3.251 | 0.178 | 12.816 | 4.521 |
| 0.029 | 2.088 | 0.737 | 0.079 | 5.688 | 2.007 | 0.129 | 9.288 | 3.277 | 0.179 | 12.888 | 4.547 |
| 0.030 | 2.160 | 0.762 | 0.080 | 5.760 | 2.032 | 0.130 | 9.360 | 3.302 | 0.180 | 12.960 | 4.572 |
| 0.031 | 2.232 | 0.787 | 0.081 | 5.832 | 2.057 | 0.131 | 9.432 | 3.327 | 0.181 | 13.032 | 4.597 |
| 0.032 | 2.304 | 0.813 | 0.082 | 5.904 | 2.083 | 0.132 | 9.504 | 3.353 | 0.182 | 13.104 | 4.623 |
| 0.033 | 2.376 | 0.838 | 0.083 | 5.976 | 2.108 | 0.133 | 9.576 | 3.378 | 0.183 | 13.176 | 4.648 |
| 0.034 | 2.448 | 0.864 | 0.084 | 6.048 | 2.134 | 0.134 | 9.648 | 3.404 | 0.184 | 13.248 | 4.674 |
| 0.035 | 2.520 | 0.889 | 0.085 | 6.120 | 2.159 | 0.135 | 9.720 | 3.429 | 0.185 | 13.320 | 4.699 |
| 0.036 | 2.592 | 0.914 | 0.086 | 6.192 | 2.184 | 0.136 | 9.792 | 3.454 | 0.186 | 13.392 | 4.724 |
| 0.037 | 2.664 | 0.940 | 0.087 | 6.264 | 2.210 | 0.137 | 9.864 | 3.480 | 0.187 | 13.464 | 4.750 |
| 0.038 | 2.736 | 0.965 | 0.088 | 6.336 | 2.235 | 0.138 | 9.936 | 3.505 | 0.188 | 13.536 | 4.775 |
| 0.039 | 2.808 | 0.991 | 0.089 | 6.408 | 2.261 | 0.139 | 10.008 | 3.531 | 0.189 | 13.608 | 4.801 |
| 0.040 | 2.880 | 1.016 | 0.090 | 6.480 | 2.286 | 0.140 | 10.080 | 3.556 | 0.190 | 13.680 | 4.826 |
| 0.041 | 2.952 | 1.041 | 0.091 | 6.552 | 2.311 | 0.141 | 10.152 | 3.581 | 0.191 | 13.752 | 4.851 |
| 0.042 | 3.024 | 1.067 | 0.092 | 6.624 | 2.337 | 0.142 | 10.224 | 3.607 | 0.192 | 13.824 | 4.877 |
| 0.043 | 3.096 | 1.092 | 0.093 | 6.696 | 2.362 | 0.143 | 10.296 | 3.632 | 0.193 | 13.896 | 4.902 |
| 0.044 | 3.168 | 1.118 | 0.094 | 6.768 | 2.388 | 0.144 | 10.368 | 3.658 | 0.194 | 13.968 | 4.928 |
| 0.045 | 3.240 | 1.143 | 0.095 | 6.840 | 2.413 | 0.145 | 10.440 | 3.683 | 0.195 | 14.040 | 4.953 |
| 0.046 | 3.312 | 1.168 | 0.096 | 6.912 | 2.438 | 0.146 | 10.512 | 3.708 | 0.196 | 14.112 | 4.978 |
| 0.047 | 3.384 | 1.194 | 0.097 | 6.984 | 2.464 | 0.147 | 10.584 | 3.734 | 0.197 | 14.184 | 5.004 |
| 0.048 | 3.456 | 1.219 | 0.098 | 7.056 | 2.489 | 0.148 | 10.656 | 3.759 | 0.198 | 14.256 | 5.029 |
| 0.049 | 3.528 | 1.245 | 0.099 | 7.128 | 2.515 | 0.149 | 10.728 | 3.785 | 0.199 | 14.328 | 5.055 |
| 0.050 | 3.600 | 1.270 | 0.100 | 7.200 | 2.540 | 0.150 | 10.800 | 3.810 | 0.200 | 14.400 | 5.080 |

3.2 Type Specifications

In most cases, type is specified in this new draft standard as either Helvetica (sans-serif) font or Times (serif) font, two fonts that are commonly used and widely available; type sizes are given in points (see table 2 for abbreviations for type faces used in this standard). Geologic age characters have been specified as StratagemAge (sans-serif) font, a specialized font designed by the U.S. Geological Survey (see section 38, appendix A). Other fonts besides these three may be substituted, but consider that they may not be installed on all common output devices and thus may not plot correctly.

3.3 Color Specifications for Line and Point Symbols

Color has been specified as the cartographic standard for many line and point symbols in this new draft standard, either because of adherence to a long-established color convention or because using color for features such as folds and dikes may help them to stand out better from other full-black linework such as contacts and faults. In most cases, another color or black (especially on an otherwise black and white only map) may be substituted if the color specified as the standard would not be visible when printed over an underlying map-unit color.

Whenever possible, color has been specified as either cyan or magenta, two of the four process-color (CMYK, cyan/magenta/yellow/black) inks that are used both in inkjet plotters and for offset printing. However, in some cases it was not practical or preferable to specify cyan or magenta as the standard; for example, mineral resource assessment areas traditionally have been outlined in red (see p. A-19-1, appendix A). Although it is possible to make a non-process color such as red from two or more process-color inks, this should be avoided if the map is to be offset printed because of the difficulties in registering large, CMYK-separated negatives. Thus, in some cases a spot color (a single-ink, non-CMYK color) has been specified as the cartographic standard.

As a simple, general way of specifying spot colors, generic color names (for example, red and violet) have been used in this new draft standard. This is mainly because in Adobe Illustrator 6.0, which was used to prepare the preliminary, beta version of this draft standard, spot colors had to be chosen from a list of Custom Color names. And although the final version of the draft standard was prepared using Illustrator 8.0, in which Adobe changed the way spot colors are specified, the color names as originally chosen in Illustrator 6.0 have been retained herein. Specifying color as these generic color names, however, may not be appropriate for use with certain output media. Therefore, the user must choose a method of specifying color that is appropriate for a particular output device; table 3 shows suggestions for conversions of spot colors to other color models.

For output to an inkjet plotter, specifying a spot color as one of the generic color names is satisfactory because, during the plotter's RIP¹ of the file, the color will automatically be converted to the proper amounts of CMYK inks that will combine to make the CMYK equivalent of that color. For maps that are to be offset printed, however, a Pantone color (single-ink spot color) should be specified (table 3). Pantone colors are imageset onto separate pieces of film, thereby avoiding misregistration problems caused when a color converts to CMYK and then is color separated onto as many as four pieces of film. Misregistration is not a problem with single-pass inkjet-plotter output.

If graphical map elements are to be published as part of a web page on the World Wide Web, colors should be chosen from a browser-safe, 8-bit color palette (216 colors) to avoid unwanted dithering on monitors that display only 256 colors (Weinman, 1996). To aid in doing so, an attempt was made to provide the browser-safe color equivalents of the spot colors given in the new draft standard (table 3). These browser-safe colors are made up of the RGB (red/green/blue) values that are as close as possible to the directly converted RGB-equivalent colors (table 3). However, with only six possible RGB values from which to choose (000, 051, 102, 153, 204, and 255), it proved to be impossible to exactly reproduce the directly converted RGB-equivalent colors. Incidentally, industry opinions on Web-safe color may be changing, owing to the large number of monitors now in use that can display more than 256 colors; Chris

¹ Raster-image processing, a process that runs on all plotters, printers, and imagesetters and converts data (in either raster or vector format) to printer dots to produce an image.

Table 2. Abbreviations used in this draft standard.

A. Color and pattern names

| ABBREVIATION | MEANING | EXAMPLE OF USAGE | REF NO |
|--------------|---------------------------|----------------------|---------|
| B | brown | 422-B (pattern) | Plate B |
| C | cyan | 502-C (pattern) | Plate B |
| CMYK | cyan/magenta/yellow/black | CMYK Color Chart | Plate A |
| DO | dropout | 204-DO (pattern) | Plate B |
| K | black | 101-K (pattern) | Plate B |
| M | magenta | 317-M (pattern) | Plate B |
| R | red | 121-R (pattern) | Plate B |
| RGB | red/green/blue | RGB-equivalent color | Table 3 |
| Y | yellow | CMYK Color Chart | Plate A |

B. Measurements

| ABBREVIATION | MEANING | EXAMPLE OF USAGE | REF NO |
|--------------|---------------|------------------------------------|---------|
| cm | centimeter(s) | measurement equivalent of distance | Sec. 35 |
| ft | foot (feet) | measurement equivalent of distance | Sec. 35 |
| in | inch(es) | measurement equivalent of distance | Sec. 35 |
| km | kilometer(s) | measurement equivalent of distance | Sec. 35 |
| m | meter(s) | measurement equivalent of distance | Sec. 35 |
| mi | mile(s) | measurement equivalent of distance | Sec. 35 |
| mm | millimeter(s) | .15 mm (contact lineweight) | 1.1.1 |

C. Type styles and sizes

| ABBREVIATION | MEANING | EXAMPLE OF USAGE | REF NO |
|--------------|----------------------------------|---|--------|
| H-8 | Helvetica, 8 point type | GOLDEN FAULT (fault name) | 2.1.8 |
| HI-6 | Helvetica Italic, 6 point type | 40 (dip value) | 6.3 |
| S-8 | StratagemAge, 8 point type | Ƨg (unit label containing geologic age character) | 31.8 |
| TBI-12 | Times Bold Italic, 12 point type | <i>A–A'</i> (cross section label) | 31.6 |

MacGregor (*in* Dennis, 1999) recently stated that non-Web-safe colors may be acceptable to use in detailed areas, although she still recommends using Web-safe colors in large areas.

3.4 Color Specifications for Map-Unit Areas

Color is routinely added to geologic maps to help distinguish individual map units. Color can be added to map-unit polygons either as color fill, as pattern fill, or as patterns over color fill. See subsection below entitled "Guidelines for Color Design" for information on color and pattern selection.

To maintain control of color output, color fills for map units should always be specified using process-color (CMYK) inks, regardless of the intended output medium. If not, then the output device (be it plotter or imagesetter) will automatically convert the non-CMYK values to CMYK during the RIP, and unwanted color shifts often will take place. To aid in the selection of color fill for geologic map units, a chart showing a wide variety of CMYK colors has been included herein (plate A).

Table 3. Spot color specifications and their equivalent colors in other color models.

[Abbreviations: CMYK, cyan/magenta/yellow/black color model (C, cyan; M, magenta; Y, yellow; K, black); RGB, red/green/blue color model (R, red; G, green; B, blue)]

| Color name in draft standard ¹ | Process color (CMYK) equivalent | | RGB equivalent ⁴ | Pantone color equivalent ⁵ | Web-safe color equivalent ⁶ | Example in draft standard |
|---|------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| | Exact CMYK conversion ² | Suitable color on CMYK chart ³ | | | | |
| red | C 15 M 100 Y 100 K 0 | C 0 M 100 Y 100 K 0 | R 217 G 0 B 0 | 485 U | R 204 G 0 B 0 (CC0000) | Section 1.2, p. A-1-3 |
| 50% red | C 7.5 M 50 Y 7.5 K 0 | C 0 M 50 Y 50 K 0 | R 233 G 124 B 95 | 485 U (screened 50%) | R 255 G 102 B 102 (FF6666) | Section 19.5, p. A-19-6 |
| green | C 100 M 20 Y 100 K 0 | C 100 M 0 Y 100 K 0 | R 0 G 109 B 44 | 346 U | R 0 G 102 B 51 (006633) | Section 19.5, p. A-19-6 |
| 50% green | C 50 M 10 Y 50 K 0 | C 50 M 0 Y 50 K 0 | R 127 G 181 B 120 | 346 U (screened 50%) | R 102 G 153 B 102 (669966) | Section 19.5, p. A-19-6 |
| violet | C 45 M 90 Y 0 K 0 | C 30 M 70 Y 0 K 0 | R 140 G 23 B 136 | Purple U | R 153 G 51 B 204 (9933CC) | Section 21, p. A-21-1 |
| brown | C 50 M 85 Y 100 K 0 | C 30 M 70 Y 70 K 0 | R 127 G 30 B 2 | 470 U | R 102 G 51 B 0 (663300) | Section 26.1, p. A-26-1 |

¹ Name of Custom Color, or spot color, as first specified in Adobe Illustrator 6.0.

² Value after direct conversion of spot color to CMYK by Adobe Illustrator 8.0.

³ Value of comparable color on CMYK Color Chart (plate A).

⁴ Value after direct conversion from CMYK to RGB by Adobe Illustrator 8.0.

⁵ Value of closest Pantone color for offset printing on uncoated paper.

⁶ RGB value (hexadecimal value in parentheses) closest to RGB-equivalent value.

The CMYK Color Chart was designed in Adobe Illustrator 8.0 to reproduce the offset-printed color chart entitled "Printing Colors and Screens in Use by the U.S. Geological Survey for Geologic and Hydrologic Maps" (yellow/magenta/cyan version), which has been in use for many years at the USGS. On this new version, however, the color codes were inverted so that the values now read as cyan/magenta/yellow (instead of yellow/magenta/cyan), in order to conform to the industry standard of CMYK (with K=0). Note that the color chips themselves have not changed, only the coding system has changed.

In addition, a diagram showing suggested stratigraphic-age and volcanic map-unit colors has been included (see section 33, appendix A). This diagram was designed in Adobe Illustrator 8.0 to reproduce something similar in the old USGS Technical Cartographic Standards volume (U.S. Geological Survey, ca. 1975); in this new version, however, the range of colors was modified slightly, a few new colors were added, and the color codes were converted to cyan/magenta/yellow (from yellow/magenta/cyan).

3.5 Pattern Specifications

The old USGS Technical Cartographic Standards volume (U.S. Geological Survey, ca. 1975) contained no cartographic specifications (lineweights, dot sizes, or size and spacing of pattern elements) for its

patterns. The volume dates back to a time when maps were conventionally prepared using hand-scribed linework and peelcoats. In those days, patterns were preprinted onto large sheets of film, which were photomechanically combined with the various peelcoats to make the CMYK negatives.

For this new draft standard, the patterns were recreated by scanning the old pattern sheets and then tracing the pattern elements in Adobe Illustrator 8.0. In many cases, lineweights and dot sizes for the black patterns were increased to facilitate digital output. A few pattern tiles were scaled to accommodate the increased lineweights, and some of the lined patterns were dropped because an increased lineweight would fill in the pattern, and an increase in scale would cause the pattern to be too similar to other patterns in the patternset.

In addition to the black versions of the patterns, cyan and magenta versions of the patterns were created, as well as dropout versions (yellow versions were not created because yellow patterns are not visible over color fill). The lineweights and dot sizes for the color and dropout versions were increased even more than for the black versions, to help them show more clearly on maps. Glacial and hydrologic patterns were created only in cyan and black, as it is unlikely that magenta or other colors would be used for these types of patterns. Also, if red or brown patterns were specified as the cartographic standard for a particular feature, then they were added to the patternset. All patterns were renumbered and suffixes indicating color were added so that all versions of the same pattern are referenced by the same number.

3.6 Geologic Age Symbol Font

A digital font named StratagemAge has been created, in which 23 special geologic age characters have been substituted into positions of normal keyboard characters. These characters can be typed either directly or with the Shift key; no Option, Control, or Alt keys are needed to type these characters (they are all in lower-order ASCII positions that have character ID numbers below 128). This was done to allow the same character positioning to work on different computer platforms without interfering with special control key sequences.

4. GUIDELINES FOR SYMBOL USAGE

This section provides some guidelines regarding the use of the symbols contained in this new draft standard.

4.1 Line Symbols

On a geologic map, line symbols can represent traces of either planar features such as contacts, faults, or dikes, or linear features such as rivers and boundaries. The accuracy of location and (or) certainty of existence of various types of lines is shown graphically by the pattern of the line symbol on the map and is indicated by the following terminology used to describe symbol types:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Certain (solid) | Trace observed in field and accurately located |
| Approximately located (long dashed) | Trace observed in field but may not be accurately located |
| Inferred (short dashed) | Existence and location inferred from indirect evidence |
| Concealed (dotted ²) | Trace projected to surface from beneath mapped surficial unit, water, or ice |

Queries may be added to indicate local uncertainty of a trace, either within a line segment or at its end(s). Queries should not be added to solid lines to indicate uncertainty of location; an "approximately located" dashed line should be used instead.

This new draft standard does not provide quantitative definitions of the locational precision terms listed above, as decisions related to the positional certainty of a line are beyond the scope of this standard. Such issues should be addressed by professionals responsible for establishing mapping procedures for various organizations and (or) for a particular geologic setting.

² In reality, dotted lines can be difficult to produce, and so a very-short-dashed line has long been used as the cartographic standard.

4.1.1 *Contacts*

Contacts can be used to show either abrupt or gradual changes in lithology. Annotations and (or) line symbol decorations may be added to indicate where a particular feature such as dip or lineation has been observed in the field.

Sometimes because of poor exposure or lack of accessibility, all contacts on a map can be considered as "approximately located." In these cases it may be best to draw all contacts as solid, non-broken lines but describe them as "approximate contact" in the explanation and (or) the database.

Scratch boundaries are boundaries of areas of color or pattern around which no line is drawn. For example, they may define a patterned area that overprints other geologic units, such as an observed zone of a particular metamorphic facies. Because, by definition, no line symbol is used, scratch boundaries have been omitted from this draft standard. This does not preclude them from being used, however.

4.1.2 *Faults*

Relative offset along faults is shown by various kinds of line symbol ornamentation. Some types of ornamentation are within the line symbol, such as evenly spaced sawteeth along a thrust fault. Other types of ornamentation are placed along a fault to indicate the general character of that fault segment, such as a "ball and bar" symbol to show normal offset. Annotations and (or) line symbol decorations may be added to indicate where a particular feature such as dip or lineation has been observed in the field.

4.1.3 *Folds*

A fold structure can be represented by either the trace of its axial surface (as it intersects the ground surface) or the traces of its crest (highest point) and trough (lowest point) lines. The trace of the axial surface is preferred, but crest and trough lines may be substituted if specified in the map explanation and (or) the database. In rare cases both may be shown if fully documented and explained.

Arrow symbols are added perpendicular to fold traces to indicate the different types of folds. These should not be added where a particular observation has been made but, rather, should be placed roughly in the center of a line segment to indicate its general character. Arrowheads may be added to a fold trace, usually but not always at its end(s), to indicate direction of plunge.

4.2 *Point Symbols*

Point symbols can represent either single features that result from one observation or multiple features observed at one locality. Point symbols may also be used to represent generalized areas or groups of points.

Point symbols may be combined if necessary. If two or more types of symbol are combined, an example of each type should be shown separately and described in the map explanation and (or) the database.

The point of observation for symbols representing planar features is located at the midpoint of the strike line where it intersects the tick indicating direction of dip. If several observations are made at one locality, the various point symbols are joined at their endpoints at the point of observation.

For linear features, the point of observation can either be in the middle of the arrow, at the end of the arrow, or at the tip of the arrowhead, depending on preference. Whichever is preferred, it is important to specify which method has been used in the map explanation and (or) the database.

4.3 *Geologic Time and Ages of Rock Units*

The USGS has published a scheme for the major divisions of geologic time, the age estimates of the boundaries, and the symbols to be used on geologic maps (Hansen, 1991). This particular scheme was adopted after a 1980 meeting of the Geologic Names Committee of the USGS (Hansen, 1991). In addition, several other schemes of geologic time boundaries have been published (see, for example, Harland and others, 1982; Palmer, 1983; Snelling, 1985), each of which is based on different assumptions, techniques, and (or) data. Any formally published age scheme may be used for a particular map, as long as the author specifies which was used.

4.4 Color and Patterns

Many factors can influence the decision as to how to best portray the geology on a map. Separate sections on color design and map labeling are included below to provide general guidelines for the effective use of color and (or) patterns in map units.

5. GUIDELINES FOR COLOR DESIGN

The goal in color design is to enhance the legibility of the map, as well as to lend meaning to the data presented by helping to focus attention on a particular map feature or group of features. Colors and patterns should not, however, be so visually dominant as to distract from the purpose of the map. A well-balanced color design can greatly improve the presentation of scientific information.

5.1 Factors that Influence Color Selection

5.1.1 *Purpose of Map*

Color is used differently on different types of maps. For example, on geologic maps, color is primarily determined by age and type of rock, although other rules may apply for terrane maps or maps that portray only one age group or type of rock. In addition, some map units, because of their geologic or economic importance, may need to be emphasized.

Geophysical maps use several color schemes, depending on the purpose of the data being shown; usually a range of colors from dark to light is used. One such scheme is a graduated set of hues of similar value (for example, purple and magenta to orange and red). Another is a rainbow of hues in which the values alternate between full color and lightly screened color.

On slope-stability maps, the brightest colors are used on areas of highest instability. Similarly, on volcanic-hazard maps, areas of greatest hazard are shown in red, whereas areas of lowest hazard are shown in yellow.

Data on hydrologic maps are frequently shown in two or three colors. On maps showing depth to water table, color ranges from light blue at the shallowest depths to dark blue at the greatest depths. On maps showing dissolved-solids concentrations, color ranges from dark blue where concentration is lowest to dark red where concentration is highest.

5.1.2 *Age and Type of Rock*

Whenever possible, colors for ages and rock types on geologic maps should follow the scheme presented in the enclosed diagram showing suggested stratigraphic-age and volcanic map-unit colors (see section 33, appendix A). This color scheme has been in use at the USGS for many years, and it has been adopted by many geological surveys throughout the world.

On maps that cover a broad range of ages and rock types, relations between rocks within one age group can be shown by using similar colors, whereas relations between the same type of rock in different age groups can be shown by using patterns (for example, all volcanic rocks may have the same "v" pattern). Patterns should be used sparingly, however, as their use can create an overly busy appearance; use them only when the complexity of the map requires the diversity achieved by the use of patterns.

When it is not feasible to show map units in the suggested age color, such as on surficial maps, terrane maps, or on maps where most units are in one age group or consist of one rock type, other characteristics should be emphasized with color. On surficial maps, for example, it may be desirable to show all glacial deposits in one color, landslide deposits in another, lacustrine deposits in another, and alluvial deposits in yet another. On terrane maps, color may be used to show lithotectonic relations between various groups of rocks.

On maps that are mostly one age group, it is best to distinguish sedimentary rocks from volcanic rocks (usually shown in reds or other bright colors) and plutonic rocks (usually shown in pinks). On maps that are mostly one type of rock, differentiation between different rock sequences can be shown through the use of different colors.

Although it is preferable to follow the aforementioned guidelines, some rock types defy such guidelines

because they traditionally have been shown in a particular color. For example, serpentinite and other ultramafic rocks characteristically are shown in purple; limestone usually is shown in bright blue; and glacial till often is shown in light green.

5.1.3 *Size of Map Areas*

In general, small map areas should be shown in darker colors and large areas should be shown in lighter colors. An exception to this may be in situations when numerous small bands of map units are shown; in this case it may be best to alternate light and dark colors. In the case of units that consist of both large and small areas, add labels and leaders to the smaller units to avoid confusion. See section below entitled "Guidelines for Map Labeling" for recommendations on placement of unit labels and leaders.

Because it is more difficult to clearly distinguish color in small areas, it is very important to choose as unique a color as possible for units that are present in only small areas. The minimum size of unit area that can show color is about two square millimeters; anything smaller will need to be labeled. In addition, exercise caution when using patterns in small areas because small areas may fail to show enough of the pattern to adequately identify a unit; about one square centimeter is the minimum size to clearly show patterns. If there can be any ambiguity in a unit area's identification, it is safest to add a label and leader.

5.1.4 *Contrast*

Adequate contrast enhances readability. A key factor is not so much the difference in hue, such as blue or green, but the difference in intensity. Contrast should not, however, be so great as to be glaring, but it should be significant enough for easy legibility. Units that need to be emphasized should be assigned colors that stand out and contrast well with the colors of less important units. In addition, greater contrast is required for small areas, whereas a more subtle contrast is sufficient for larger areas.

5.2 *Specifying Color Values*

Color values must be high enough to provide adequate contrast but not so great that they prevent the unit labels, structure symbols, and topographic base from showing clearly. Except in small areas, magenta and cyan should be used in intensities of 50% or less. A greater intensity of cyan might obscure drainage features (commonly shown in cyan), and a greater intensity of magenta might obscure magenta fold axes and dikes. As a general rule, use a combination of color values that, when added together, totals 100 or less (for example, 30% cyan/40% magenta/20% yellow; $30+40+20 = 90$).

To maintain enough contrast between two colors, try to keep at least a 20% difference between one of the color values (for example, 30% cyan/8% magenta/20% yellow and 50% cyan/8% magenta/20% yellow). A small percentage (8% or 13%) of black can sometimes be added to create more color combinations.

There are a few colors that should not be used on a geologic map. Avoid using 8% yellow because it is too light and cannot easily be distinguished from white. In addition, it may be wise to avoid using 13% or 20% cyan, as these colors may look like a body of water.

On maps that are to be offset printed, it may be best to use a solid (100%) single-ink color such as cyan, magenta, yellow, or a particular spot color in very small areas to avoid misregistration problems. For example, 100% cyan may be used to show small limestone blocks in melange, or 100% magenta may be used to show thin rhyolite intrusions.

5.3 *Use of Patterns*

Patterns can be printed either in black, in color, or as a dropout. Ideally, patterns should be used sparingly and only when necessary for clarification, as they can add unnecessary complexity to a map. To select appropriate patterns for a map, both the type of rock and the size and (or) orientation of map-unit areas must be considered.

Although some flexibility exists in the use of patterns, some patterns are traditionally and exclusively used for certain rock types: for example, "+" patterns are used for plutonic rocks, and irregular "v" patterns represent volcanic rocks. For units that are present only in small areas, a tight, random pattern will fit more of the pattern elements into a particular area. Exercise caution, however, when choosing metamorphic patterns that display a strong directionality, as their use may imply a general orientation of metamorphic fabric that in reality is much more varied than the pattern may indicate.

5.3.1 Overprint Patterns

Black overprint patterns are less effective than color in most situations, as they can conceal base-map information or interfere with type or structure symbols. Thus, it may be best to restrict the use of full-black patterns to small, uncluttered areas; if a map-unit label is needed, it can be placed outside the area and leadered in. Black patterns can be screened to reduce their intensity, but be aware that doing so may lead to misregistration problems on maps being prepared for offset printing; this is because the color fill underneath such screened elements will most likely be masked out during the RIP.

Color overprint patterns are usually printed in either cyan or magenta, but sometimes a spot color such as red is used. For offset printing, it is best to use only one color for overprint patterns, as using more than one color can cause misregistration problems.

5.3.2 Dropout Patterns

Dropout patterns cause one or more of the CMYK colors that combine to make a unit color to be transparent, thus allowing the remaining color(s) to show through. Their use can be especially effective on a map that has a large amount of labeling or many structure symbols.

For output to a single-pass inkjet plotter, a dropout pattern may be applied to all of the CMYK colors that make up a unit color; the dropout pattern would then show as white. Be aware, however, that doing so may cause that unit to stand out more than is desired. For offset printing, only one color should be dropped out, as dropping out more than one will lead to misregistration problems; in general, the most dominant (the one with the highest value) color other than yellow should be the one dropped out.

6. GUIDELINES FOR MAP LABELING

Map-unit labels are the most common labels on geologic maps. Other labels include base-map information, feature names, and data items such as dip labels, gold concentrations, well depths, radiometric ages, and sample locality numbers. Before the use of digital technologies for mapmaking, labels and leaders were placed by either hand-drawing them or applying stick-up type. Nowadays, using digital mapmaking techniques, labels can be automatically plotted from information in a database; however, this often results in labels overprinting other map features, requiring them to be interactively repositioned or deleted. Regardless of the method employed, effective label placement is an important factor in producing a useful map.

For a map to be easily read, labels and leaders should be placed where they are clear and legible, with care taken to avoid overprinting of other labels or map features. They should not create an overly "busy" or cluttered appearance, which makes recognition of map patterns and shapes and map-element distribution difficult to discern. Enough features should be labeled so that the reader can identify all of the various map elements; no unlabeled map feature should leave the reader guessing.

Labels and leaders should be carefully placed to avoid overprinting of linework, symbols, or other labels. They should not obscure other map elements or make them difficult to read, nor should they obscure base-map features that are mentioned in the text or that are useful in locating places on the map.

6.1 Strategies for Map Labeling

Commonly, color or pattern can be used to identify an unlabeled polygon if a nearby polygon of the same unit is labeled. Therefore, color selection can be critical when deciding whether or not to label a particular polygon. Thus, it is important to complete the color and pattern design of the map before attempting to place and move unit labels, especially for complex maps or those that have many units.

There are no precise rules for which and how many of the polygons on a map should be labeled, but the following are some general guidelines. If a unit has a unique and clearly distinguishable color or pattern, it is not necessary to label every polygon of that unit. Color and pattern can carry the identification of a group of polygons of the same unit as long as some of them are labeled. Use judgment when deciding whether the color for that unit is distinctive enough and (or) whether a particular unlabeled polygon can be visually or logically associated with any nearby labeled polygons of the same unit. In small polygons, however, even the most distinctive color or pattern may be difficult to discern. If there might be any doubt, add a label and leader.

At least one polygon of every unit within a "normal field of view" should be labeled. This field of view is the area in focus when the map is viewed at a comfortable, readable distance. In uncluttered areas of the map or in areas of relatively simple geology, this field of view might have a radius of about two inches; in geologically complex or cluttered areas, it may be much smaller. The reader should not need to search across the map trying to find a labeled polygon that has a color that matches an unlabeled polygon.

In addition, maps that are to be downloaded from the Web will be sent to a plotter of unknown type, and there is no guarantee that colors that appear distinct when plotted on your plotter will also be distinguishable when plotted on other plotters. The more polygons that are labeled, the less chance of ambiguity and confusion.

6.2 Font Selection

When placing labels digitally, it is important to use the same font that will be used for final publication. The size and kerning (spacing of letters) of characters are different for different fonts, even those having the same point size. If labels have been carefully placed in tight areas using one font, but then another font is used for final publication, the labels may overprint other features because the new font may have longer character heights and string lengths. In addition, it is important to always use PostScript fonts, which are needed to ensure consistent final output for both print and digital publications.

In most cases, Helvetica, Times, or StratagemAge should be used. Other fonts besides these three may be used, but they may not plot correctly on all common output devices. The important thing to remember is to use the correct kind of font: use a sans-serif font like Helvetica or StratagemAge for most type on a map, such as unit labels, dip values, and fault names; use a serif font like Times for labels on cross sections. For base-map information, use a combination of serif and sans-serif fonts; the general rule is to follow the styles found on a published topographic map sheet.

6.3 Type Size and Style

The ideal size for map-unit labels is 8 pt, although labels as small as 6 pt may be substituted where space is tight. Fractional font sizes may be used if needed, and different sizes can be mixed on the same map. If unit labels contain subscripts or superscripts, the minimum unit-label size should be 7 pt; then the size for the subscript or superscript character would be 5 pt, two point sizes smaller than normal.

Other sizes and styles are used to label different features. In general, use 8 pt type for names of faults and major structures, for sample locality numbers and radiometric ages, and for fault (U/D, A/T) and contact (Y/O) ornamentation. Use 6 pt italic type for dip or plunge values. Use 11 pt italic type for cross-section labels. For labels of larger features, type size and (or) kerning (letter spacing) may be increased to improve legibility.

6.4 Label Placement

Labels for linear map features should be aligned along those features. Other labels should have a logical or comfortable orientation relative to the map. In rare cases it might be desirable to have labels run parallel to lines of latitude, but in general they should be oriented horizontally.

Unit labels and dip values should always be oriented horizontally. They should not overprint other map elements such as linework, point symbols, or any other dip values and labels, nor should they obscure base-map features that are referenced in text or are needed to orient the map in the field. Single labels can be used to identify more than one polygon; use multiple leaders where necessary.

Unit labels should not be placed in dark-colored units or in densely patterned areas, both of which would make the labels hard to read; instead, move labels outside such areas and add leaders. If a label must be placed in a dark-colored or densely patterned unit, it may be necessary to mask out the color or pattern around the label to help make it more legible.

6.5 Leader Placement

Leaders should be drawn as straight lines, not bent or curved. They should not stop at or outside polygon boundaries but should extend into unit areas. Leaders should cross polygon boundaries at as high an angle as possible; they should not cross through other units to reach a particular unit unless absolutely necessary. Multiple leaders emanating from a single label should not be joined at their "label" ends.

7. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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9. INDEX TO INTRODUCTORY TEXT AND APPENDIX A

A

| | Page | Ref. No. |
|---|--------|----------|
| Abandoned clay pit | A-19-3 | 19.3.12 |
| Abandoned gas well | A-19-7 | 19.5.26 |
| Abandoned gas well—Converted to injection well | A-19-7 | 19.5.28 |
| Abandoned gas well—Converted to water well | A-19-7 | 19.5.27 |
| Abandoned glory hole | A-19-3 | 19.3.15 |
| Abandoned gravel pit | A-19-3 | 19.3.12 |
| Abandoned oil and gas well | A-19-7 | 19.5.33 |
| Abandoned oil and gas well—Converted to injection well | A-19-7 | 19.5.35 |
| Abandoned oil and gas well—Converted to water well | A-19-7 | 19.5.34 |
| Abandoned oil well | A-19-6 | 19.5.19 |
| Abandoned oil well—Converted to injection well | A-19-6 | 19.5.21 |
| Abandoned oil well—Converted to water well | A-19-6 | 19.5.20 |
| Abandoned open pit | A-19-3 | 19.3.15 |
| Abandoned placer pit | A-19-3 | 19.3.12 |
| Abandoned quarry | A-19-3 | 19.3.15 |
| Abandoned sand pit | A-19-3 | 19.3.12 |
| Abandoned vertical mine shaft | A-19-3 | 19.3.8 |
| Abandoned water well | A-26-5 | 26.2.13 |
| Abandoned well—Converted to injection well | A-19-7 | 19.5.38 |
| Abandoned well—Converted to water well | A-19-7 | 19.5.37 |
| Abbreviations used in this draft standard | 8 | n/a |
| Accretionary prism | A-22-1 | 22.16 |
| Acknowledgments | 16 | n/a |
| Acritarchs | A-10-1 | 10.2.1 |
| Active convergent plate boundary—Approximately located | A-22-1 | 22.14 |
| Active convergent plate boundary—Approximately located, queried | A-22-1 | 22.15 |
| Active convergent plate boundary—Certain | A-22-1 | 22.13 |
| Active convergent plate boundary—Showing accretionary prism | A-22-1 | 22.16 |
| Active mid-oceanic ridge, with rift—Approximately located | A-22-1 | 22.2 |
| Active mid-oceanic ridge, with rift—Approximately located, queried | A-22-1 | 22.3 |
| Active mid-oceanic ridge, with rift—Certain | A-22-1 | 22.1 |
| Active mid-oceanic ridge, without rift—Approximately located | A-22-1 | 22.5 |
| Active mid-oceanic ridge, without rift—Approximately located, queried | A-22-1 | 22.6 |
| Active mid-oceanic ridge, without rift—Certain | A-22-1 | 22.4 |
| Active (operating) hazardous waste site | A-20-1 | 20.3 |
| Active quality-of-water site | A-26-6 | 26.4.2 |
| Active quality-of-water site—Equipped with a monitor | A-26-6 | 26.4.3 |
| Active spreading axis, with rift—Approximately located | A-22-1 | 22.2 |
| Active spreading axis, with rift—Approximately located, queried | A-22-1 | 22.3 |
| Active spreading axis, with rift—Certain | A-22-1 | 22.1 |
| Active spreading axis, without rift—Approximately located | A-22-1 | 22.5 |
| Active spreading axis, without rift—Approximately located, queried | A-22-1 | 22.6 |
| Active spreading axis, without rift—Certain | A-22-1 | 22.4 |

| | | Page | Ref. No. |
|-----|---|---------|-----------|
| 938 | | | |
| 939 | Active transform fault, left-lateral offset—Approximately located | A-22-2 | 22.30 |
| 940 | Active transform fault, left-lateral offset—Approximately located, queried | A-22-2 | 22.31 |
| 941 | Active transform fault, left-lateral offset—Certain | A-22-2 | 22.29 |
| 942 | Active transform fault, normal offset—Approximately located | A-22-2 | 22.33 |
| 943 | Active transform fault, normal offset—Approximately located, queried | A-22-2 | 22.34 |
| 944 | Active transform fault, normal offset—Certain | A-22-2 | 22.32 |
| 945 | Active transform fault, right-lateral offset—Approximately located | A-22-2 | 22.27 |
| 946 | Active transform fault, right-lateral offset—Approximately located, queried | A-22-2 | 22.28 |
| 947 | Active transform fault, right-lateral offset—Certain | A-22-2 | 22.26 |
| 948 | Active transform fault, sense of offset unspecified—Approximately located | A-22-2 | 22.24 |
| 949 | Active transform fault, sense of offset unspecified—Approximately located, | | |
| 950 | queried | A-22-2 | 22.25 |
| 951 | Active transform fault, sense of offset unspecified—Certain | A-22-2 | 22.23 |
| 952 | Active volcano on small-scale maps | A-18-3 | 18.46 |
| 953 | Adit | A-19-3 | 19.3.2 |
| 954 | Adit, inaccessible | A-19-3 | 19.3.3 |
| 955 | Age and type of rock (influence on color design) | 12 | n/a |
| 956 | Agglomerate lithologic pattern | Plate B | 715 |
| 957 | Aggradational shoreline—Approximately located | A-15-1 | 15.16 |
| 958 | Aggradational shoreline—Approximately located, queried | A-15-1 | 15.17 |
| 959 | Aggradational shoreline—Certain | A-15-1 | 15.15 |
| 960 | Alabama location map | A-37-1 | Sec. 37.1 |
| 961 | Alaska location map | A-37-1 | Sec. 37.1 |
| 962 | Algae | A-10-1 | 10.2.2 |
| 963 | Aligned hummocks on landslide (shown as point symbols when too small to | | |
| 964 | outline at map scale) | A-17-1 | 17.19 |
| 965 | Aligned kettles | A-14-1 | 14.12 |
| 966 | Alkali flat | A-26-1 | 26.1.1 |
| 967 | Alkali spring | A-26-4 | 26.1.75 |
| 968 | Alluvial features | A-12-1 | Sec. 12 |
| 969 | Altered rock, type 1 | A-19-1 | 19.1.11 |
| 970 | Altered rock, type 2—High level of mineralization | A-19-1 | 19.1.12 |
| 971 | Altered rock, type 2—Low level of mineralization | A-19-1 | 19.1.13 |
| 972 | Ammonites | A-10-1 | 10.2.3 |
| 973 | Ancient convergent plate boundary—Certain | A-22-1 | 22.17 |
| 974 | Ancient convergent plate boundary—Approximately located | A-22-1 | 22.18 |
| 975 | Ancient mid-oceanic ridge—Certain | A-22-1 | 22.7 |
| 976 | Ancient mid-oceanic ridge—Uncertain | A-22-1 | 22.8 |
| 977 | Ancient spreading axis—Certain | A-22-1 | 22.7 |
| 978 | Ancient spreading axis—Uncertain | A-22-1 | 22.8 |
| 979 | Ancient transform fault, sense of offset unspecified—Certain | A-22-2 | 22.35 |
| 980 | Ancient transform fault, sense of offset unspecified—Approximately located | A-22-2 | 22.36 |
| 981 | Anticline—Approximately located | A-5-1 | 5.1.2 |
| 982 | Anticline—Approximately located, queried | A-5-1 | 5.1.3 |
| 983 | Anticline—Axial surface (AS) of fold | A-5-1 | 5.1.13 |
| 984 | Anticline—Certain | A-5-1 | 5.1.1 |
| 985 | Anticline—Concealed | A-5-1 | 5.1.6 |

| | | Page | Ref. No. |
|------|---|---------|-----------|
| 986 | | | |
| 987 | Anticline—Concealed, queried | A-5-1 | 5.1.7 |
| 988 | Anticline—Inferred | A-5-1 | 5.1.4 |
| 989 | Anticline—Inferred, queried | A-5-1 | 5.1.5 |
| 990 | Anticline—Showing crest line (CS) of fold where it diverges from axial surface | A-5-1 | 5.1.14 |
| 991 | Anticline—Showing direction and plunge of fold axis | A-5-1 | 5.1.11 |
| 992 | Anticline—Showing direction of closure of near-vertical fold limbs | A-5-1 | 5.1.12 |
| 993 | Anticline—Showing name | A-5-1 | 5.1.8 |
| 994 | Anticline—Showing trough line (TS) of fold where it diverges from axial surface | A-5-1 | 5.1.15 |
| 995 | Antiform, 1st type—Approximately located | A-5-2 | 5.1.17 |
| 996 | Antiform, 1st type—Approximately located, queried | A-5-2 | 5.1.18 |
| 997 | Antiform, 1st type—Certain | A-5-2 | 5.1.16 |
| 998 | Antiform, 1st type—Concealed | A-5-2 | 5.1.21 |
| 999 | Antiform, 1st type—Concealed, queried | A-5-2 | 5.1.22 |
| 1000 | Antiform, 1st type—Inferred | A-5-2 | 5.1.19 |
| 1001 | Antiform, 1st type—Inferred, queried | A-5-2 | 5.1.20 |
| 1002 | Antiform, 2nd type—Approximately located | A-5-2 | 5.1.24 |
| 1003 | Antiform, 2nd type—Approximately located, queried | A-5-2 | 5.1.25 |
| 1004 | Antiform, 2nd type—Certain | A-5-2 | 5.1.23 |
| 1005 | Antiform, 2nd type—Concealed | A-5-2 | 5.1.28 |
| 1006 | Antiform, 2nd type—Concealed, queried | A-5-2 | 5.1.29 |
| 1007 | Antiform, 2nd type—Inferred | A-5-2 | 5.1.26 |
| 1008 | Antiform, 2nd type—Inferred, queried | A-5-2 | 5.1.27 |
| 1009 | Apparent limit of water body | A-26-2 | 26.1.24 |
| 1010 | Applicability (of draft standard) | 1 | n/a |
| 1011 | Approximately located (line symbol) | 10 | n/a |
| 1012 | Aqueduct—Intermittent | A-26-3 | 26.1.55 |
| 1013 | Aqueduct—Perennial | A-26-3 | 26.1.54 |
| 1014 | Archaeocyathides | A-10-1 | 10.2.4 |
| 1015 | Archean age symbol | A-38-1 | 38.1 |
| 1016 | Area considered to have mineral resource potential but not evaluated, mostly | | |
| 1017 | because of inadequate data | A-19-1 | 19.1.19 |
| 1018 | Area of clinkered coal bed—Showing name | A-1-2 | 1.2.22 |
| 1019 | Area of high mineral resource potential | A-19-1 | 19.1.16 |
| 1020 | Area of identified resources | A-19-1 | 19.1.15 |
| 1021 | Area of low mineral resource potential | A-19-1 | 19.1.18 |
| 1022 | Area of moderate mineral resource potential | A-19-1 | 19.1.17 |
| 1023 | Area of reticulate grooves, planetary—Showing trend | A-25-3 | 25.45 |
| 1024 | Area to be submerged above dam | A-26-1 | 26.1.10 |
| 1025 | Areas of extensively disturbed ground as mapped units | A-19-2 | Sec. 19.2 |
| 1026 | Argillaceous dolomite lithologic pattern | Plate B | 647 |
| 1027 | Argillaceous limestone lithologic pattern | Plate B | 638 |
| 1028 | Argillaceous sandstone lithologic pattern | Plate B | 612 |
| 1029 | Arizona location map | A-37-1 | Sec. 37.1 |
| 1030 | Arkansas location map | A-37-1 | Sec. 37.1 |
| 1031 | Artesian well | A-26-5 | 26.2.8 |
| 1032 | Artificial fill—Earth materials | A-19-2 | 19.2.3 |

| | | Page | Ref. No. |
|------|--|---------|----------|
| 1033 | | | |
| 1034 | Artificial fill—Human-generated refuse (landfill) | A-19-2 | 19.2.4 |
| 1035 | Ash deposit formed in surge, flow direction at base | A-18-3 | 18.4.3 |
| 1036 | Asymmetric anticline—Approximately located | A-5-3 | 5.2.2 |
| 1037 | Asymmetric anticline—Approximately located, queried | A-5-3 | 5.2.3 |
| 1038 | Asymmetric anticline—Certain | A-5-3 | 5.2.1 |
| 1039 | Asymmetric anticline—Concealed | A-5-3 | 5.2.6 |
| 1040 | Asymmetric anticline—Concealed, queried | A-5-3 | 5.2.7 |
| 1041 | Asymmetric anticline—Inferred | A-5-3 | 5.2.4 |
| 1042 | Asymmetric anticline—Inferred, queried | A-5-3 | 5.2.5 |
| 1043 | Asymmetric syncline—Approximately located | A-5-5 | 5.4.2 |
| 1044 | Asymmetric syncline—Approximately located, queried | A-5-5 | 5.4.3 |
| 1045 | Asymmetric syncline—Certain | A-5-5 | 5.4.1 |
| 1046 | Asymmetric syncline—Concealed | A-5-5 | 5.4.6 |
| 1047 | Asymmetric syncline—Concealed, queried | A-5-5 | 5.4.7 |
| 1048 | Asymmetric syncline—Inferred | A-5-5 | 5.4.4 |
| 1049 | Asymmetric syncline—Inferred, queried | A-5-5 | 5.4.5 |
| 1050 | Axial surface of fold | A-5-1 | Sec. 5.1 |
| 1051 | | | |
| 1052 | B | | |
| 1053 | | | |
| 1054 | Back elevation | A-19-4 | 19.4.9 |
| 1055 | Backfilled stope (section view) | A-19-5 | 19.4.25 |
| 1056 | Background (of draft standard) | 2 | n/a |
| 1057 | Banded igneous rock lithologic pattern | Plate B | 720 |
| 1058 | Bank, left | A-26-4 | 26.1.71 |
| 1059 | Bank, right | A-26-4 | 26.1.70 |
| 1060 | Bar—Approximately located | A-15-1 | 15.9 |
| 1061 | Bar—Approximately located, queried | A-15-1 | 15.10 |
| 1062 | Bar—Certain | A-15-1 | 15.8 |
| 1063 | Bar scales | A-35-1 | Sec. 35 |
| 1064 | Barrio boundary | A-29-1 | 29.4 |
| 1065 | Basal scarp, planetary | A-25-2 | 25.39 |
| 1066 | Basalt-filled lava pond that is bounded by levees | A-18-2 | 18.21 |
| 1067 | Basaltic flows lithologic pattern | Plate B | 717 |
| 1068 | Basin outline—Approximately located | A-22-2 | 22.38 |
| 1069 | Basin outline—Approximately located, queried | A-22-2 | 22.39 |
| 1070 | Basin outline—Certain | A-22-2 | 22.37 |
| 1071 | Bathymetric contour—Index | A-30-1 | 30.3 |
| 1072 | Bathymetric contour—Intermediate | A-30-1 | 30.4 |
| 1073 | Bay coastline | A-26-1 | 26.1.18 |
| 1074 | Beach ridges | A-15-1 | 15.14 |
| 1075 | Bedded chert, fossiliferous, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 651 |
| 1076 | Bedded chert lithologic patterns | Plate B | 649-50 |
| 1077 | Bedded, irregularly, or nodular limestone lithologic pattern | Plate B | 630 |
| 1078 | Bedded sand lithologic pattern | Plate B | 608 |
| 1079 | Bedded sandstone lithologic pattern | Plate B | 608 |

| | | Page | Ref. No. |
|------|--|---------|-----------|
| 1080 | | | |
| 1081 | Bedding | A-6-1 | Sec. 6 |
| 1082 | Bedding overturned more than 180 degrees—Showing strike and dip | A-6-1 | 6.9 |
| 1083 | Bedding overturned more than 180 degrees—Showing strike and dip. Top | | |
| 1084 | direction of beds known from local features | A-6-1 | 6.10 |
| 1085 | Belemnites | A-10-1 | 10.2.5 |
| 1086 | Bentonite lithologic pattern | Plate B | 662 |
| 1087 | Biological measurement quality-of-water site | A-26-6 | 26.4.7 |
| 1088 | Biostratigraphic zone boundary | A-10-1 | Sec. 10.1 |
| 1089 | Biostratigraphic zone boundary—Showing approximate boundary of diagnostic | | |
| 1090 | fossil assemblage | A-10-1 | 10.1.3 |
| 1091 | Block-slump fault slip surface—Approximately located | A-17-1 | 17.5 |
| 1092 | Block-slump fault slip surface—Certain | A-17-1 | 17.4 |
| 1093 | Block-slump fault slip surface—Concealed | A-17-1 | 17.7 |
| 1094 | Block-slump fault slip surface—Inferred | A-17-1 | 17.6 |
| 1095 | Blowout rim around closed depression of eolian origin in bedrock—Approximately | | |
| 1096 | located | A-16-1 | 16.5 |
| 1097 | Blowout rim around closed depression of eolian origin in bedrock—Certain | A-16-1 | 16.4 |
| 1098 | Blowout rim around closed depression of eolian origin in dune field | A-16-1 | 16.3 |
| 1099 | Bog | A-26-1 | 26.1.13 |
| 1100 | Bog, cranberry | A-26-1 | 26.1.16 |
| 1101 | Bones | A-10-1 | 10.2.6 |
| 1102 | Bony coal or impure coal lithologic pattern | Plate B | 659 |
| 1103 | Borough boundary | A-29-1 | 29.5 |
| 1104 | Bottom of mine shaft | A-19-4 | 19.4.3 |
| 1105 | Boudinage—Showing bearing and plunge | A-5-7 | 5.6.22 |
| 1106 | Boundaries located by geophysical methods | A-3-1 | Sec. 3.1 |
| 1107 | Boundary—Barrio | A-29-1 | 29.4 |
| 1108 | Boundary—Borough | A-29-1 | 29.5 |
| 1109 | Boundary—City | A-29-1 | 29.5 |
| 1110 | Boundary—Civil township | A-29-1 | 29.4 |
| 1111 | Boundary—County | A-29-1 | 29.3 |
| 1112 | Boundary—District | A-29-1 | 29.4 |
| 1113 | Boundary—Hamlet | A-29-1 | 29.5 |
| 1114 | Boundary—Incorporated city | A-29-1 | 29.5 |
| 1115 | Boundary—Indian reservation | A-29-1 | 29.10 |
| 1116 | Boundary—International | A-29-1 | 29.1 |
| 1117 | Boundary—Located by aeromagnetic survey | A-3-1 | 3.1.2 |
| 1118 | Boundary—Located by geophysical methods | A-3-1 | 3.1.1 |
| 1119 | Boundary—Located by gravity survey | A-3-1 | 3.1.4 |
| 1120 | Boundary—Located by ground magnetic survey | A-3-1 | 3.1.3 |
| 1121 | Boundary—Located by radiometric survey | A-3-1 | 3.1.5 |
| 1122 | Boundary—Military reservation | A-29-1 | 29.11 |
| 1123 | Boundary—National battlefield | A-29-1 | 29.6 |
| 1124 | Boundary—National fish hatchery | A-29-1 | 29.8 |
| 1125 | Boundary—National forest | A-29-1 | 29.7 |
| 1126 | Boundary—National game preserve | A-29-1 | 29.8 |
| 1127 | Boundary—National grassland | A-29-1 | 29.7 |

| | | Page | Ref. No. |
|------|--|---------|----------|
| 1128 | | | |
| 1129 | Boundary—National lakeshore | A-29-1 | 29.6 |
| 1130 | Boundary—National monument | A-29-1 | 29.6 |
| 1131 | Boundary—National park | A-29-1 | 29.6 |
| 1132 | Boundary—National parkway | A-29-1 | 29.6 |
| 1133 | Boundary—National recreation area | A-29-1 | 29.6 |
| 1134 | Boundary—National scenic waterway | A-29-1 | 29.9 |
| 1135 | Boundary—National seashore | A-29-1 | 29.6 |
| 1136 | Boundary—National wilderness area | A-29-1 | 29.9 |
| 1137 | Boundary—National wildlife refuge | A-29-1 | 29.8 |
| 1138 | Boundary—Precinct | A-29-1 | 29.4 |
| 1139 | Boundary—Small park | A-29-1 | 29.12 |
| 1140 | Boundary—State | A-29-1 | 29.2 |
| 1141 | Boundary—Town | A-29-1 | 29.5 |
| 1142 | Boundary—Village | A-29-1 | 29.5 |
| 1143 | Brachiopods | A-10-1 | 10.2.7 |
| 1144 | Brackish-water fossils | A-10-1 | 10.2.8 |
| 1145 | Braided stream—Intermittent | A-26-3 | 26.1.51 |
| 1146 | Braided stream—Perennial | A-26-3 | 26.1.50 |
| 1147 | Breccia lithologic patterns | Plate B | 606-06 |
| 1148 | Breccia pipe | A-18-3 | 18.50 |
| 1149 | Breccia, volcanic, and tuff lithologic pattern | Plate B | 714 |
| 1150 | Bridge | A-28-1 | 28.13 |
| 1151 | Brown (color name) | 8 | n/a |
| 1152 | Browser-safe color | 7 | n/a |
| 1153 | Bryozoa | A-10-1 | 10.2.9 |
| 1154 | Burrow(?) fillings of saccharoidal dolomite in limestone lithologic pattern | Plate B | 631 |
| 1155 | | | |
| 1156 | C | | |
| 1157 | | | |
| 1158 | Calcareous nannoplankton (coccoliths) | A-10-1 | 10.2.10 |
| 1159 | Calcareous sandstone lithologic pattern | Plate B | 613 |
| 1160 | Calcareous shale and limestone, interbedded, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 680 |
| 1161 | Calcareous shale and limestone, interbedded (shale dominant), lithologic pattern | Plate B | 675 |
| 1162 | Calcareous shale lithologic pattern | Plate B | 623 |
| 1163 | Calcareous siltstone lithologic pattern | Plate B | 617 |
| 1164 | Caldera margin 1—Approximately located | A-18-1 | 18.8 |
| 1165 | Caldera margin 1—Approximately located, queried | A-18-1 | 18.9 |
| 1166 | Caldera margin 1—Certain | A-18-1 | 18.7 |
| 1167 | Caldera margin 1—Concealed | A-18-1 | 18.12 |
| 1168 | Caldera margin 1—Concealed, queried | A-18-1 | 18.13 |
| 1169 | Caldera margin 1—Inferred | A-18-1 | 18.10 |
| 1170 | Caldera margin 1—Inferred, queried | A-18-1 | 18.11 |
| 1171 | Caldera margin 2—Approximately located | A-18-1 | 18.15 |
| 1172 | Caldera margin 2—Approximately located, queried | A-18-1 | 18.16 |
| 1173 | Caldera margin 2—Certain | A-18-1 | 18.14 |
| 1174 | Caldera margin 2—Concealed | A-18-1 | 18.19 |

| | | Page | Ref. No. |
|------|---|---------|-----------|
| 1175 | | | |
| 1176 | Caldera margin 2—Concealed, queried | A-18-1 | 18.20 |
| 1177 | Caldera margin 2—Inferred | A-18-1 | 18.17 |
| 1178 | Caldera margin 2—Inferred, queried | A-18-1 | 18.18 |
| 1179 | Caldera, planetary | A-25-4 | 25.62 |
| 1180 | California location map | A-37-1 | Sec. 37.1 |
| 1181 | Cambrian age symbol | A-38-1 | 38.2 |
| 1182 | Canal lock | A-26-3 | 26.1.42 |
| 1183 | Capped gas well | A-19-7 | 19.5.29 |
| 1184 | Capped oil and gas well | A-19-7 | 19.5.36 |
| 1185 | Capped oil well | A-19-6 | 19.5.22 |
| 1186 | Carbonaceous shale lithologic pattern | Plate B | 624 |
| 1187 | Carboniferous age symbol | A-38-1 | 38.3 |
| 1188 | Carolina bay | A-26-2 | 26.1.25 |
| 1189 | Caved or otherwise inaccessible workings—Above ground | A-19-4 | 19.4.13 |
| 1190 | Caved or otherwise inaccessible workings—Below ground | A-19-4 | 19.4.12 |
| 1191 | Cenozoic age symbol | A-38-1 | 38.4 |
| 1192 | Central mound of complex terrestrial impact crater | A-24-2 | 24.20 |
| 1193 | Cephalopods | A-10-1 | 10.2.11 |
| 1194 | Certain (line symbol) | 10 | n/a |
| 1195 | Chain craters or collapsed lava tube, planetary | A-25-4 | 25.61 |
| 1196 | Chalk lithologic pattern | Plate B | 626 |
| 1197 | Changes from previous standards | 2 | n/a |
| 1198 | Channel bars, planetary—May be erosional or depositional | A-25-4 | 25.67 |
| 1199 | Channel in open water—Intermittent | A-26-4 | 26.1.63 |
| 1200 | Channel in open water—Perennial | A-26-4 | 26.1.62 |
| 1201 | Channel—Intermittent | A-26-4 | 26.1.63 |
| 1202 | Channel—Perennial | A-26-4 | 26.1.62 |
| 1203 | Charophytes | A-10-1 | 10.2.12 |
| 1204 | Chart showing conversion from inches (in) to points (pts) to millimeters (mm) | 6 | n/a |
| 1205 | Check gate | A-26-3 | 26.1.44 |
| 1206 | Chemical measurement quality-of-water site | A-26-6 | 26.4.5 |
| 1207 | Chert, bedded fossiliferous, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 651 |
| 1208 | Chert, bedded, lithologic patterns | Plate B | 649-50 |
| 1209 | Chert, fossiliferous bedded, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 651 |
| 1210 | Cherty and sandy crossbedded clastic limestone lithologic pattern | Plate B | 634 |
| 1211 | Cherty crossbedded limestone lithologic pattern | Plate B | 633 |
| 1212 | Cherty dolomite lithologic pattern | Plate B | 648 |
| 1213 | Cherty limestone lithologic patterns | Plate B | 639-40 |
| 1214 | Cherty shale lithologic pattern | Plate B | 621 |
| 1215 | Chitinozoans | A-10-1 | 10.2.13 |
| 1216 | Chute | A-19-4 | 19.4.7 |
| 1217 | Cinder cone on small-scale maps | A-18-3 | 18.48 |
| 1218 | Cinder cone on surface of lava flow | A-18-3 | 18.44 |
| 1219 | Cirque headwall | A-13-3 | 13.39 |
| 1220 | Cirque headwalls along serrated ridge | A-13-3 | 13.40 |
| 1221 | City boundary | A-29-1 | 29.5 |

| | | Page | Ref. No. |
|------|---|---------|----------|
| 1222 | | | |
| 1223 | Civil township boundary | A-29-1 | 29.4 |
| 1224 | Class 1 primary route, divided by centerline | A-28-1 | 28.2 |
| 1225 | Class 1 primary route, divided, lanes separated | A-28-1 | 28.3 |
| 1226 | Class 1 primary route, undivided | A-28-1 | 28.1 |
| 1227 | Class 2 secondary route, divided, lanes separated | A-28-1 | 28.4 |
| 1228 | Class 3 road or street | A-28-1 | 28.5 |
| 1229 | Class 4 road or street | A-28-1 | 28.6 |
| 1230 | Class 5 trail, 4-wheel-drive vehicles | A-28-1 | 28.8 |
| 1231 | Class 5 trail, other than 4-wheel-drive vehicles | A-28-1 | 28.7 |
| 1232 | Clastic limestone, cherty and sandy, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 634 |
| 1233 | Clastic limestone, crossbedded, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 634 |
| 1234 | Clastic limestone, fossiliferous, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 629 |
| 1235 | Clastic limestone lithologic pattern | Plate B | 628 |
| 1236 | Clay bed—Approximately located | A-1-3 | 1.2.24 |
| 1237 | Clay bed—Approximately located, queried | A-1-3 | 1.2.25 |
| 1238 | Clay bed—Certain | A-1-3 | 1.2.23 |
| 1239 | Clay bed—Concealed | A-1-3 | 1.2.28 |
| 1240 | Clay bed—Concealed, queried | A-1-3 | 1.2.29 |
| 1241 | Clay bed—Inferred | A-1-3 | 1.2.26 |
| 1242 | Clay bed—Inferred, queried | A-1-3 | 1.2.27 |
| 1243 | Clay, flint, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 661 |
| 1244 | Clay lithologic pattern | Plate B | 620 |
| 1245 | Clay pit | A-19-3 | 19.3.12 |
| 1246 | Clay pit—Abandoned | A-19-3 | 19.3.12 |
| 1247 | Clay shale lithologic pattern | Plate B | 620 |
| 1248 | Cleavage | A-7-1 | Sec. 7 |
| 1249 | Clinkered coal bed—Approximately located | A-1-2 | 1.2.20 |
| 1250 | Clinkered coal bed—Approximately located, queried | A-1-2 | 1.2.21 |
| 1251 | Clinkered coal bed as an area—Showing name | A-1-2 | 1.2.22 |
| 1252 | Clinkered coal bed—Certain | A-1-2 | 1.2.19 |
| 1253 | CMYK color | 7 | n/a |
| 1254 | CMYK Color Chart | Plate A | n/a |
| 1255 | CMYK Color Chart (explanation) | A-34-1 | Sec. 34 |
| 1256 | Coal bed—Approximately located | A-1-2 | 1.2.13 |
| 1257 | Coal bed—Approximately located, queried | A-1-2 | 1.2.14 |
| 1258 | Coal bed—Certain | A-1-2 | 1.2.12 |
| 1259 | Coal bed—Concealed | A-1-2 | 1.2.17 |
| 1260 | Coal bed—Concealed, queried | A-1-2 | 1.2.18 |
| 1261 | Coal bed—Inferred | A-1-2 | 1.2.15 |
| 1262 | Coal bed—Inferred, queried | A-1-2 | 1.2.16 |
| 1263 | Coal, bony, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 659 |
| 1264 | Coal, impure, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 659 |
| 1265 | Coal lithologic pattern | Plate B | 658 |
| 1266 | Coastline of bay | A-26-1 | 26.1.18 |
| 1267 | Coastline of estuary | A-26-1 | 26.1.18 |
| 1268 | Coastline of gulf | A-26-1 | 26.1.18 |

| | | Page | Ref. No. |
|------|--|---------|-----------|
| 1269 | | | |
| 1270 | Coastline of ocean | A-26-1 | 26.1.18 |
| 1271 | Coastline of sea | A-26-1 | 26.1.18 |
| 1272 | Collapse features | A-23-1 | Sec. 23 |
| 1273 | Collapse structure—Indicating breccia pipe at depth | A-18-3 | 18.51 |
| 1274 | Collapse structure or sinkhole | A-23-1 | 23.4 |
| 1275 | Color and pattern names (abbreviations) | 8 | n/a |
| 1276 | Color and patterns (guidelines for use) | 12 | n/a |
| 1277 | Color chart | Plate A | n/a |
| 1278 | Color chart (explanation) | A-34-1 | Sec. 34 |
| 1279 | Color design guidelines | 12 | n/a |
| 1280 | Color specifications for line and point symbols | 7 | n/a |
| 1281 | Color specifications for map-unit areas | 8 | n/a |
| 1282 | Color values (guidelines for use) | 13 | n/a |
| 1283 | Colorado location map | A-37-1 | Sec. 37.1 |
| 1284 | Complete weather station | A-27-1 | 27.2 |
| 1285 | Complex fold—Showing direction and plunge. Triangle indicates dip of foliation; | | |
| 1286 | tick indicates dip of beds | A-5-8 | 5.7.7 |
| 1287 | Complex impact crater, planetary—Peak at center, surrounded by floor, rim crest, | | |
| 1288 | and rough rim or continuous ejecta or field of secondary craters | A-25-3 | 25.53 |
| 1289 | Complex impact crater, terrestrial | A-24-2 | 24.20 |
| 1290 | Concealed (line symbol) | 10 | n/a |
| 1291 | Conglomerate, crossbedded, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 603 |
| 1292 | Conglomerate lithologic patterns | Plate B | 601-02 |
| 1293 | Connecticut location map | A-37-1 | Sec. 37.1 |
| 1294 | Conodonts | A-10-1 | 10.2.14 |
| 1295 | Contact—Approximately located | A-1-1 | 1.1.2 |
| 1296 | Contact—Approximately located, queried | A-1-1 | 1.1.3 |
| 1297 | Contact—Certain | A-1-1 | 1.1.1 |
| 1298 | Contact—Concealed | A-1-1 | 1.1.6 |
| 1299 | Contact—Concealed, queried | A-1-1 | 1.1.7 |
| 1300 | Contact—Inferred | A-1-1 | 1.1.4 |
| 1301 | Contact—Inferred, queried | A-1-1 | 1.1.5 |
| 1302 | Contact, planetary—Approximate | A-25-1 | 25.2 |
| 1303 | Contact, planetary—Certain | A-25-1 | 25.1 |
| 1304 | Contact, planetary—Concealed | A-25-1 | 25.4 |
| 1305 | Contact, planetary—Inferred | A-25-1 | 25.3 |
| 1306 | Contact separating individual flows within map unit, erupted either from same | | |
| 1307 | vent or from different vents | A-18-2 | 18.39 |
| 1308 | Contact—Showing dip where known | A-1-1 | 1.1.8 |
| 1309 | Contact—Showing direction and plunge of lineation where known | A-1-1 | 1.1.10 |
| 1310 | Contact—Showing location where contact is well exposed in field | A-1-1 | 1.1.11 |
| 1311 | Contact—Showing relative age of intrusive or extrusive units where known: Y, | | |
| 1312 | younger; O, older | A-1-1 | 1.1.12 |
| 1313 | Contacts | A-1-1 | Sec. 1.1 |
| 1314 | Contacts (guidelines for use) | 10 | n/a |
| 1315 | Conterminous states location map | A-37-3 | Sec. 37.2 |
| 1316 | Continental Divide | A-29-1 | 29.13 |

| | | Page | Ref. No. |
|------|---|---------|----------|
| 1317 | | | |
| 1318 | Continental slope—Approximately located | A-22-1 | 22.20 |
| 1319 | Continental slope—Approximately located, queried | A-22-1 | 22.21 |
| 1320 | Continental slope—Certain | A-22-1 | 22.19 |
| 1321 | Continental slope—Showing margin | A-22-1 | 22.22 |
| 1322 | Continuous-record gaging station | A-26-6 | 26.3.2 |
| 1323 | Contorted gneiss lithologic pattern | Plate B | 709 |
| 1324 | Contorted schist lithologic pattern | Plate B | 706 |
| 1325 | Contrast (influence on color design) | 13 | n/a |
| 1326 | Convergent plate boundary, active—Approximately located | A-22-1 | 22.14 |
| 1327 | Convergent plate boundary, active—Approximately located, queried | A-22-1 | 22.15 |
| 1328 | Convergent plate boundary, active—Certain | A-22-1 | 22.13 |
| 1329 | Convergent plate boundary, active—Showing accretionary prism | A-22-1 | 22.16 |
| 1330 | Convergent plate boundary, ancient—Approximately located | A-22-1 | 22.18 |
| 1331 | Convergent plate boundary, ancient—Certain | A-22-1 | 22.17 |
| 1332 | Conversion from inches (in) to millimeters (mm) | 6 | n/a |
| 1333 | Conversion from inches (in) to points (pts) | 6 | n/a |
| 1334 | Conversion from millimeters (mm) to inches (in) | 6 | n/a |
| 1335 | Conversion from millimeters (mm) to points (pts) | 6 | n/a |
| 1336 | Conversion from points (pts) to inches (in) | 6 | n/a |
| 1337 | Conversion from points (pts) to millimeters (mm) | 6 | n/a |
| 1338 | Coral reef | A-26-4 | 26.1.66 |
| 1339 | Corals | A-10-1 | 10.2.15 |
| 1340 | County boundary | A-29-1 | 29.3 |
| 1341 | County or county-equivalent FIPS code | A-29-1 | 29.15 |
| 1342 | Covered reservoir | A-26-1 | 26.1.4 |
| 1343 | Cracks formed in ground by earthquake | A-21-1 | 21.8 |
| 1344 | Cracks on surface of lava flow | A-18-2 | 18.40 |
| 1345 | Cranberry bog | A-26-1 | 26.1.16 |
| 1346 | Crater floor, planetary—Showing pit | A-25-3 | 25.50 |
| 1347 | Crater floor, planetary—Showing pit (shown as 'dot' when too small to outline | | |
| 1348 | at map scale) | A-25-3 | 25.51 |
| 1349 | Crater outline, unspecified origin | A-23-1 | 23.5 |
| 1350 | Crater, planetary—Showing central peak | A-25-3 | 25.48 |
| 1351 | Crater, planetary—Showing central peak (shown as 'plus' when too small to | | |
| 1352 | outline at map scale) | A-25-3 | 25.49 |
| 1353 | Crater, volcanic—Approximately located | A-18-1 | 18.2 |
| 1354 | Crater, volcanic—Approximately located, queried | A-18-1 | 18.3 |
| 1355 | Crater, volcanic—Certain | A-18-1 | 18.1 |
| 1356 | Crater, volcanic—Concealed | A-18-1 | 18.4 |
| 1357 | Crater, volcanic—Concealed, queried | A-18-1 | 18.5 |
| 1358 | Crater, volcanic—Showing low point of crater (dot) | A-18-1 | 18.6 |
| 1359 | Crater with rim, formed by shock or sand blowouts—Approximately located | A-21-1 | 21.11 |
| 1360 | Crater with rim, formed by shock or sand blowouts—Approximately located, | | |
| 1361 | queried | A-21-1 | 21.12 |
| 1362 | Crater with rim, formed by shock or sand blowouts—Certain | A-21-1 | 21.10 |
| 1363 | Crater with rim, formed by shock or sand blowouts—Concealed | A-21-1 | 21.13 |
| 1364 | Crater with rim, formed by shock or sand blowouts—Concealed, queried | A-21-1 | 21.14 |

| | | Page | Ref. No. |
|------|--|---------|----------|
| 1365 | | | |
| 1366 | Crater without rim, formed by shock—Approximately located | A-21-1 | 21.16 |
| 1367 | Crater without rim, formed by shock—Approximately located, queried | A-21-1 | 21.17 |
| 1368 | Crater without rim, formed by shock—Certain | A-21-1 | 21.15 |
| 1369 | Crater without rim, formed by shock—Concealed | A-21-1 | 21.18 |
| 1370 | Crater without rim, formed by shock—Concealed, queried | A-21-1 | 21.19 |
| 1371 | Crest line of asymmetrical moraine—Ticks point down steeper slope | A-13-2 | 13.30 |
| 1372 | Crest line of fold | A-5-1 | Sec. 5.1 |
| 1373 | Crest line of lateral levee, type 1 | A-17-1 | 17.20 |
| 1374 | Crest line of lateral levee, type 2 | A-17-1 | 17.21 |
| 1375 | Crest line of moraine, sense of symmetry unspecified, type 1 | A-13-2 | 13.28 |
| 1376 | Crest line of moraine, sense of symmetry unspecified, type 2 | A-13-2 | 13.29 |
| 1377 | Crest line of pressure ridge or tumulus on lava flow | A-18-2 | 18.22 |
| 1378 | Crest line of symmetrical moraine | A-13-2 | 13.31 |
| 1379 | Crest of buried crater rim, planetary | A-25-3 | 25.47 |
| 1380 | Crest of crater rim, planetary | A-25-3 | 25.46 |
| 1381 | Cretaceous age symbol | A-38-1 | 38.5 |
| 1382 | Crevasse | A-26-3 | 26.1.46 |
| 1383 | Crinoids | A-10-1 | 10.2.16 |
| 1384 | Cross section line and label | A-31-1 | 31.6 |
| 1385 | Cross ticks showing location and orientation of data collection lines crossing | | |
| 1386 | geophysical boundary | A-3-1 | 3.2.3 |
| 1387 | Crossbedded conglomerate lithologic pattern | Plate B | 603 |
| 1388 | Crossbedded dolomite lithologic pattern | Plate B | 643 |
| 1389 | Crossbedded gravel lithologic pattern | Plate B | 603 |
| 1390 | Crossbedded limestone, cherty, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 633 |
| 1391 | Crossbedded limestone, clastic, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 634 |
| 1392 | Crossbedded limestone lithologic pattern | Plate B | 632 |
| 1393 | Crossbedded limestone, sandy, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 634 |
| 1394 | Crossbedded sand lithologic patterns | Plate B | 609-10 |
| 1395 | Crossbedded sandstone lithologic patterns | Plate B | 609-10 |
| 1396 | Crossbedded subgraywacke lithologic pattern | Plate B | 655 |
| 1397 | Crosscut tunnel | A-19-4 | 19.4.16 |
| 1398 | Crystal tuff lithologic pattern | Plate B | 712 |
| 1399 | Cut, open | A-19-3 | 19.3.5 |
| 1400 | Cut, small open | A-19-3 | 19.3.11 |
| 1401 | | | |
| 1402 | D | | |
| 1403 | | | |
| 1404 | Dam | A-26-3 | 26.1.41 |
| 1405 | Dammed reservoir | A-26-1 | 26.1.2 |
| 1406 | Danger curve | A-26-2 | 26.1.26 |
| 1407 | Dark-colored ejecta, planetary | A-25-3 | 25.55 |
| 1408 | Dark-colored mantling material, planetary | A-25-3 | 25.58 |
| 1409 | Dashed (line symbol) | 10 | n/a |
| 1410 | Data-collection water well | A-26-5 | 26.2.19 |
| 1411 | Declination arrows | A-36-1 | Sec. 36 |

| | | Page | Ref. No. |
|------|---|--------|-----------|
| 1412 | | | |
| 1413 | Deep-sea trench—Showing margin filled by sedimentation (patterned area) | A-22-2 | 22.40 |
| 1414 | Deep-seismofocal zone—Approximately located | A-22-1 | 22.10 |
| 1415 | Deep-seismofocal zone—Approximately located, queried | A-22-1 | 22.11 |
| 1416 | Deep-seismofocal zone—Certain | A-22-1 | 22.9 |
| 1417 | Deep-seismofocal zone—Showing fore-arc sediments | A-22-1 | 22.12 |
| 1418 | Delaware location map | A-37-1 | Sec. 37.1 |
| 1419 | Depression, planetary | A-25-2 | 25.41 |
| 1420 | Destroyed water well | A-26-5 | 26.2.14 |
| 1421 | Detachment fault, type 1, 1st generation—Approximately located | A-2-5 | 2.6.2 |
| 1422 | Detachment fault, type 1, 1st generation—Approximately located, queried | A-2-5 | 2.6.3 |
| 1423 | Detachment fault, type 1, 1st generation—Certain | A-2-5 | 2.6.1 |
| 1424 | Detachment fault, type 1, 1st generation—Concealed | A-2-5 | 2.6.6 |
| 1425 | Detachment fault, type 1, 1st generation—Concealed, queried | A-2-5 | 2.6.7 |
| 1426 | Detachment fault, type 1, 1st generation—Inferred | A-2-5 | 2.6.4 |
| 1427 | Detachment fault, type 1, 1st generation—Inferred, queried | A-2-5 | 2.6.5 |
| 1428 | Detachment fault, type 1, 2nd generation—Approximately located | A-2-5 | 2.6.9 |
| 1429 | Detachment fault, type 1, 2nd generation—Approximately located, queried | A-2-5 | 2.6.10 |
| 1430 | Detachment fault, type 1, 2nd generation—Certain | A-2-5 | 2.6.8 |
| 1431 | Detachment fault, type 1, 2nd generation—Concealed | A-2-5 | 2.6.13 |
| 1432 | Detachment fault, type 1, 2nd generation—Concealed, queried | A-2-5 | 2.6.14 |
| 1433 | Detachment fault, type 1, 2nd generation—Inferred | A-2-5 | 2.6.11 |
| 1434 | Detachment fault, type 1, 2nd generation—Inferred, queried | A-2-5 | 2.6.12 |
| 1435 | Detachment fault, type 1, 3rd generation—Approximately located | A-2-5 | 2.6.16 |
| 1436 | Detachment fault, type 1, 3rd generation—Approximately located, queried | A-2-5 | 2.6.17 |
| 1437 | Detachment fault, type 1, 3rd generation—Certain | A-2-5 | 2.6.15 |
| 1438 | Detachment fault, type 1, 3rd generation—Concealed | A-2-5 | 2.6.20 |
| 1439 | Detachment fault, type 1, 3rd generation—Concealed, queried | A-2-5 | 2.6.21 |
| 1440 | Detachment fault, type 1, 3rd generation—Inferred | A-2-5 | 2.6.18 |
| 1441 | Detachment fault, type 1, 3rd generation—Inferred, queried | A-2-5 | 2.6.19 |
| 1442 | Detachment fault, type 2, 1st generation—Approximately located | A-2-6 | 2.6.23 |
| 1443 | Detachment fault, type 2, 1st generation—Approximately located, queried | A-2-6 | 2.6.24 |
| 1444 | Detachment fault, type 2, 1st generation—Certain | A-2-6 | 2.6.22 |
| 1445 | Detachment fault, type 2, 1st generation—Concealed | A-2-6 | 2.6.27 |
| 1446 | Detachment fault, type 2, 1st generation—Concealed, queried | A-2-6 | 2.6.28 |
| 1447 | Detachment fault, type 2, 1st generation—Inferred | A-2-6 | 2.6.25 |
| 1448 | Detachment fault, type 2, 1st generation—Inferred, queried | A-2-6 | 2.6.26 |
| 1449 | Detachment fault, type 2, 2nd generation—Approximately located | A-2-6 | 2.6.30 |
| 1450 | Detachment fault, type 2, 2nd generation—Approximately located, queried | A-2-6 | 2.6.31 |
| 1451 | Detachment fault, type 2, 2nd generation—Certain | A-2-6 | 2.6.29 |
| 1452 | Detachment fault, type 2, 2nd generation—Concealed | A-2-6 | 2.6.34 |
| 1453 | Detachment fault, type 2, 2nd generation—Concealed, queried | A-2-6 | 2.6.35 |
| 1454 | Detachment fault, type 2, 2nd generation—Inferred | A-2-6 | 2.6.32 |
| 1455 | Detachment fault, type 2, 2nd generation—Inferred, queried | A-2-6 | 2.6.33 |
| 1456 | Detachment fault, type 2, 3rd generation—Approximately located | A-2-6 | 2.6.37 |
| 1457 | Detachment fault, type 2, 3rd generation—Approximately located, queried | A-2-6 | 2.6.38 |
| 1458 | Detachment fault, type 2, 3rd generation—Certain | A-2-6 | 2.6.36 |

| | | Page | Ref. No. |
|------|---|---------|-----------|
| 1459 | | | |
| 1460 | Detachment fault, type 2, 3rd generation—Concealed | A-2-6 | 2.6.41 |
| 1461 | Detachment fault, type 2, 3rd generation—Concealed, queried | A-2-6 | 2.6.42 |
| 1462 | Detachment fault, type 2, 3rd generation—Inferred | A-2-6 | 2.6.39 |
| 1463 | Detachment fault, type 2, 3rd generation—Inferred, queried | A-2-6 | 2.6.40 |
| 1464 | Devitrified tuff lithologic pattern | Plate B | 713 |
| 1465 | Devonian age symbol | A-38-1 | 38.6 |
| 1466 | Diamicton lithologic pattern | Plate B | 604 |
| 1467 | Diamond drill hole | A-19-4 | 19.4.14 |
| 1468 | Diamond drill hole—Showing angle of inclination. Negative angles show | | |
| 1469 | downward slope | A-19-4 | 19.4.15 |
| 1470 | Diapirs, salt | A-23-1 | 23.9 |
| 1471 | Diapirs, shale | A-23-1 | 23.9 |
| 1472 | Diatomaceous rock lithologic pattern | Plate B | 653 |
| 1473 | Diatoms | A-10-1 | 10.2.17 |
| 1474 | Diatreme | A-18-3 | 18.49 |
| 1475 | Diffuse highland-lowland boundary scarp, planetary | A-25-3 | 25.60 |
| 1476 | Dike 1—Approximately located | A-1-4 | 1.3.2 |
| 1477 | Dike 1—Certain | A-1-4 | 1.3.1 |
| 1478 | Dike 1—Showing name | A-1-4 | 1.3.3 |
| 1479 | Dike 1—Showing variable thickness | A-1-4 | 1.3.4 |
| 1480 | Dike 2—Approximately located | A-1-4 | 1.3.7 |
| 1481 | Dike 2—Certain | A-1-4 | 1.3.6 |
| 1482 | Dike 3—Approximately located | A-1-4 | 1.3.9 |
| 1483 | Dike 3—Certain | A-1-4 | 1.3.8 |
| 1484 | Dike 4—Approximately located | A-1-4 | 1.3.11 |
| 1485 | Dike 4—Certain | A-1-4 | 1.3.10 |
| 1486 | Dike 5—Approximately located | A-1-4 | 1.3.11 |
| 1487 | Dike 5—Certain | A-1-4 | 1.3.13 |
| 1488 | Dike 6—Approximately located | A-1-4 | 1.3.15 |
| 1489 | Dike 6—Certain | A-1-4 | 1.3.14 |
| 1490 | Dike intruding fault | A-1-4 | 1.3.5 |
| 1491 | Dikes | A-1-4 | Sec. 1.3 |
| 1492 | Dinoflagellates | A-10-1 | 10.2.18 |
| 1493 | Dipping contacts | A-1-1 | Sec. 1.1 |
| 1494 | Dipping faults | A-2-1 | Sec. 2.1 |
| 1495 | Direction and closure of near-vertical fold limbs | A-5-1 | Sec. 5.1 |
| 1496 | Direction of downslope movement of landslide | A-17-1 | 17.3 |
| 1497 | Direction of ground-water flow, type 1—Approximate | A-26-7 | 26.6.10 |
| 1498 | Direction of ground-water flow, type 1—Certain | A-26-7 | 26.6.8 |
| 1499 | Direction of ground-water flow, type 2—Approximate | A-26-7 | 26.6.11 |
| 1500 | Direction of ground-water flow, type 2—Certain | A-26-7 | 26.6.9 |
| 1501 | Discontinued gaging station | A-26-6 | 26.3.5 |
| 1502 | Discontinued weather station | A-27-1 | 27.10 |
| 1503 | District boundary | A-29-1 | 29.4 |
| 1504 | District of Columbia location map | A-37-1 | Sec. 37.1 |
| 1505 | Ditch—Intermittent | A-26-3 | 26.1.53 |

| | | Page | Ref. No. |
|------|---|---------|----------|
| 1506 | | | |
| 1507 | Ditch—Perennial | A-26-3 | 26.1.52 |
| 1508 | Dolomite, argillaceous, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 647 |
| 1509 | Dolomite, cherty, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 648 |
| 1510 | Dolomite, crossbedded, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 643 |
| 1511 | Dolomite, limy, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 641 |
| 1512 | Dolomite lithologic pattern | Plate B | 642 |
| 1513 | Dolomite, oolitic, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 644 |
| 1514 | Dolomite, saccharoidal, irregular (burrow?) fillings in limestone, lithologic | | |
| 1515 | pattern | Plate B | 631 |
| 1516 | Dolomite, sandy, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 645 |
| 1517 | Dolomite, shaly, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 647 |
| 1518 | Dolomite, silty, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 646 |
| 1519 | Dolomitic limestone lithologic pattern | Plate B | 641 |
| 1520 | Dolomitic sandstone lithologic pattern | Plate B | 614 |
| 1521 | Dolomitic shale lithologic pattern | Plate B | 622 |
| 1522 | Dolomitic siltstone lithologic pattern | Plate B | 618 |
| 1523 | Dome or circular scarp, planetary | A-25-2 | 25.40 |
| 1524 | Domestic-water-supply spring | A-26-7 | 26.5.3 |
| 1525 | Domestic-water-supply well | A-26-5 | 26.2.2 |
| 1526 | Dotted (line symbol) | 10 | n/a |
| 1527 | Doubly plunging anticline | A-5-1 | 5.1.10 |
| 1528 | Drain, ephemeral | A-26-4 | 26.1.64 |
| 1529 | Drill hole, diamond | A-19-4 | 19.4.14 |
| 1530 | Drill hole, diamond—Showing angle of inclination. Negative angles show | | |
| 1531 | downward slope | A-19-4 | 19.4.15 |
| 1532 | Drill hole for mineral exploration | A-19-3 | 19.3.1 |
| 1533 | Drill hole—No geologic data | A-19-6 | 19.5.9 |
| 1534 | Drill hole—Showing operator number and total depth (in feet) | A-19-6 | 19.5.8 |
| 1535 | Drill hole trace, inclined | A-19-6 | 19.5.10 |
| 1536 | Drill hole trace, inclined—Showing collar altitude (72 m) and total depth | | |
| 1537 | (620 m) | A-19-6 | 19.5.12 |
| 1538 | Drill hole trace, inclined—Showing inclination | A-19-6 | 19.5.11 |
| 1539 | Drilling well (hydrocarbon exploration) | A-19-6 | 19.5.7 |
| 1540 | Dropout patterns (guidelines for use) | 14 | n/a |
| 1541 | Drumlin—Showing bearing and direction of flow | A-13-3 | 13.33 |
| 1542 | Drumlloid form—Showing bearing of flow; flow direction unknown | A-13-3 | 13.34 |
| 1543 | Dry hole converted to injection well | A-19-6 | 19.5.15 |
| 1544 | Dry hole converted to water well | A-19-6 | 19.5.14 |
| 1545 | Dry hole—Unsuccessful hole drilled during hydrocarbon exploration | A-19-6 | 19.5.13 |
| 1546 | Dry hole—Water exploration | A-26-5 | 26.2.18 |
| 1547 | Dry hydrologic feature | A-26-4 | 26.1.73 |
| 1548 | Dune crest | A-16-1 | 16.1 |
| 1549 | | | |
| 1550 | E | | |
| 1551 | | | |
| 1552 | Early Archean (3,800(?)–3,400 Ma) age symbol | A-38-1 | 38.7 |
| 1553 | Early Early Proterozoic (2,500–2,100 Ma) age symbol | A-38-1 | 38.8 |

| | | Page | Ref. No. |
|------|--|--------|----------|
| 1554 | | | |
| 1555 | Early Middle Proterozoic (1,600–1,400 Ma) age symbol | A–38–1 | 38.9 |
| 1556 | Early Proterozoic age symbol | A–38–1 | 38.10 |
| 1557 | Earth material fill | A–19–2 | 19.2.3 |
| 1558 | Earthquake epicenter, magnitude 4–5.49 | A–21–1 | 21.6 |
| 1559 | Earthquake epicenter, magnitude 5.5–5.99 | A–21–1 | 21.5 |
| 1560 | Earthquake epicenter, magnitude 6.5–6.99 | A–21–1 | 21.3 |
| 1561 | Earthquake epicenter, magnitude 6–6.49 | A–21–1 | 21.4 |
| 1562 | Earthquake epicenter, magnitude 7–7.49 | A–21–1 | 21.2 |
| 1563 | Earthquake epicenter, magnitude 7.5 or larger | A–21–1 | 21.1 |
| 1564 | Earthquake epicenter, magnitude less than 4 | A–21–1 | 21.7 |
| 1565 | Earthquake-hazard features | A–21–1 | Sec. 21 |
| 1566 | Echinoderms | A–10–1 | 10.2.19 |
| 1567 | Echinoids | A–10–1 | 10.2.20 |
| 1568 | Edge of dry lakebed within closed depression of eolian origin in bedrock | A–16–1 | 16.6 |
| 1569 | Ejecta, terrestrial | A–24–2 | 24.22 |
| 1570 | Elevation of back | A–19–4 | 19.4.9 |
| 1571 | Elevation of floor | A–19–4 | 19.4.10 |
| 1572 | Elevation of roof | A–19–4 | 19.4.9 |
| 1573 | Elevation of sill | A–19–4 | 19.4.10 |
| 1574 | Elevation, water surface | A–26–4 | 26.1.76 |
| 1575 | Eocene age symbol | A–38–1 | 38.11 |
| 1576 | Eolian features | A–16–1 | Sec. 16 |
| 1577 | Ephemeral drain | A–26–4 | 26.1.64 |
| 1578 | Epicenters | A–21–1 | Sec. 21 |
| 1579 | Erosional shoreline—Approximately located | A–15–1 | 15.19 |
| 1580 | Erosional shoreline—Approximately located, queried | A–15–1 | 15.20 |
| 1581 | Erosional shoreline—Certain | A–15–1 | 15.18 |
| 1582 | Esker 1, known transport direction | A–13–1 | 13.5 |
| 1583 | Esker 2, known transport direction | A–13–1 | 13.6 |
| 1584 | Esker, unknown transport direction | A–13–1 | 13.7 |
| 1585 | Estuary coastline | A–26–1 | 26.1.18 |
| 1586 | Evaporation-measurement weather station | A–27–1 | 27.5 |
| 1587 | Evaporator, salt | A–26–1 | 26.1.6 |
| 1588 | Evaporator, soda | A–26–1 | 26.1.20 |
| 1589 | Explanation for CMYK color chart (Plate A) | A–34–1 | Sec. 34 |
| 1590 | Explanation for pattern chart (Plate B) | A–32–1 | Sec. 32 |
| 1591 | Extinct spring | A–26–7 | 26.5.10 |
| 1592 | | | |
| 1593 | F | | |
| 1594 | | | |
| 1595 | Facies boundary | A–19–1 | 19.1.14 |
| 1596 | Factors that influence color selection | 12 | n/a |
| 1597 | Falls on double-line drainage | A–26–2 | 26.1.36 |
| 1598 | Falls on single-line drainage | A–26–2 | 26.1.35 |
| 1599 | Fault—Approximately located | A–2–1 | 2.1.2 |
| 1600 | Fault—Approximately located, queried | A–2–1 | 2.1.3 |

| | | Page | Ref. No. |
|------|--|--------|----------|
| 1601 | | | |
| 1602 | Fault—Certain | A-2-1 | 2.1.1 |
| 1603 | Fault—Concealed | A-2-1 | 2.1.6 |
| 1604 | Fault—Concealed, queried | A-2-1 | 2.1.7 |
| 1605 | Fault—Inferred | A-2-1 | 2.1.4 |
| 1606 | Fault—Inferred, queried | A-2-1 | 2.1.5 |
| 1607 | Fault—Located by aeromagnetic survey | A-3-1 | 3.1.7 |
| 1608 | Fault—Located by geophysical methods | A-3-1 | 3.1.6 |
| 1609 | Fault—Located by gravity survey | A-3-1 | 3.1.9 |
| 1610 | Fault—Located by ground magnetic survey | A-3-1 | 3.1.8 |
| 1611 | Fault—Located by radiometric survey | A-3-1 | 3.1.10 |
| 1612 | Fault, planetary, left-lateral offset—Approximate | A-25-1 | 25.18 |
| 1613 | Fault, planetary, left-lateral offset—Certain | A-25-1 | 25.17 |
| 1614 | Fault, planetary, left-lateral offset—Concealed | A-25-1 | 25.20 |
| 1615 | Fault, planetary, left-lateral offset—Inferred | A-25-1 | 25.19 |
| 1616 | Fault, planetary, normal offset—Approximate | A-25-1 | 25.10 |
| 1617 | Fault, planetary, normal offset—Certain | A-25-1 | 25.9 |
| 1618 | Fault, planetary, normal offset—Concealed | A-25-1 | 25.12 |
| 1619 | Fault, planetary, normal offset—Inferred | A-25-1 | 25.11 |
| 1620 | Fault, planetary, right-lateral offset—Approximate | A-25-1 | 25.14 |
| 1621 | Fault, planetary, right-lateral offset—Certain | A-25-1 | 25.13 |
| 1622 | Fault, planetary, right-lateral offset—Concealed | A-25-1 | 25.16 |
| 1623 | Fault, planetary, right-lateral offset—Inferred | A-25-1 | 25.15 |
| 1624 | Fault, planetary, sense of offset unspecified—Approximate | A-25-1 | 25.6 |
| 1625 | Fault, planetary, sense of offset unspecified—Certain | A-25-1 | 25.5 |
| 1626 | Fault, planetary, sense of offset unspecified—Concealed | A-25-1 | 25.8 |
| 1627 | Fault, planetary, sense of offset unspecified—Inferred | A-25-1 | 25.7 |
| 1628 | Fault scarp—Approximately located | A-21-2 | 21.26 |
| 1629 | Fault scarp—Approximately located, queried | A-21-2 | 21.27 |
| 1630 | Fault scarp—Certain | A-21-2 | 21.25 |
| 1631 | Fault scarp—Concealed | A-21-2 | 21.30 |
| 1632 | Fault scarp—Concealed, queried | A-21-2 | 21.31 |
| 1633 | Fault scarp—Inferred | A-21-2 | 21.28 |
| 1634 | Fault scarp—Inferred, queried | A-21-2 | 21.29 |
| 1635 | Fault—Showing dip where known | A-2-1 | 2.1.9 |
| 1636 | Fault—Showing direction and plunge of lineation where known | A-2-1 | 2.1.10 |
| 1637 | Fault—Showing name | A-2-1 | 2.1.8 |
| 1638 | Fault—Showing relative motion in cross section: A, away from observer; T, | | |
| 1639 | toward observer | A-2-1 | 2.1.13 |
| 1640 | Fault—Showing relative motion: U, upthrown block; D, downthrown block | A-2-1 | 2.1.12 |
| 1641 | Fault—Tick shows direction of dip of fault; arrow shows direction of lineation | | |
| 1642 | on fault | A-2-1 | 2.1.11 |
| 1643 | Fault, transform, active, left-lateral offset—Approximately located | A-22-2 | 22.30 |
| 1644 | Fault, transform, active, left-lateral offset—Approximately located, queried | A-22-2 | 22.31 |
| 1645 | Fault, transform, active, left-lateral offset—Certain | A-22-2 | 22.29 |
| 1646 | Fault, transform, active, normal offset—Approximately located | A-22-2 | 22.33 |
| 1647 | Fault, transform, active, normal offset—Approximately located, queried | A-22-2 | 22.34 |
| 1648 | Fault, transform, active, normal offset—Certain | A-22-2 | 22.32 |

| | | Page | Ref. No. |
|------|--|---------|-----------|
| 1649 | | | |
| 1650 | Fault, transform, active, right-lateral offset—Approximately located | A-22-2 | 22.27 |
| 1651 | Fault, transform, active, right-lateral offset—Approximately located, queried | A-22-2 | 22.28 |
| 1652 | Fault, transform, active, right-lateral offset—Certain | A-22-2 | 22.26 |
| 1653 | Fault, transform, active, sense of offset unspecified—Approximately located | A-22-2 | 22.24 |
| 1654 | Fault, transform, active, sense of offset unspecified—Approximately located, | | |
| 1655 | queried | A-22-2 | 22.25 |
| 1656 | Fault, transform, active, sense of offset unspecified—Certain | A-22-2 | 22.23 |
| 1657 | Fault, transform, ancient, sense of offset unspecified—Certain | A-22-2 | 22.35 |
| 1658 | Fault, transform, ancient, sense of offset unspecified—Approximately located | A-22-2 | 22.36 |
| 1659 | Faults | A-2-1 | Sec. 2 |
| 1660 | Faults (guidelines for use) | 11 | n/a |
| 1661 | Faults having unspecified offset or orientation | A-2-1 | Sec. 2.1 |
| 1662 | Faults located by geophysical methods | A-3-1 | Sec. 3.1 |
| 1663 | Felsenmeer | A-14-1 | 14.9 |
| 1664 | Ferry crossing | A-28-1 | 28.15 |
| 1665 | Fill—Earth materials | A-19-2 | 19.2.3 |
| 1666 | Fill—Human-generated refuse (landfill) | A-19-2 | 19.2.4 |
| 1667 | Fillings, irregular (burrow?), of saccharoidal dolomite in limestone, lithologic | | |
| 1668 | pattern | Plate B | 631 |
| 1669 | Filtration pond | A-26-1 | 26.1.11 |
| 1670 | Fish farm | A-26-1 | 26.1.8 |
| 1671 | Fish hatchery | A-26-1 | 26.1.8 |
| 1672 | Fish remains | A-10-1 | 10.2.21 |
| 1673 | Fish scales | A-10-1 | 10.2.22 |
| 1674 | Fissure, volcanic—Certain | A-18-2 | 18.25 |
| 1675 | Fissure, volcanic—Concealed | A-18-2 | 18.26 |
| 1676 | Fissure, volcanic—Hachures show location where lava was emitted | A-18-2 | 18.27 |
| 1677 | Fissures and sand and (or) other material ejected during earthquake | A-21-1 | 21.9 |
| 1678 | Fissures formed in ground by earthquake | A-21-1 | 21.8 |
| 1679 | Flint clay lithologic pattern | Plate B | 661 |
| 1680 | Flood gate | A-26-3 | 26.1.44 |
| 1681 | Floor elevation | A-19-4 | 19.4.10 |
| 1682 | Floor of terrestrial impact crater | A-24-2 | 24.19 |
| 1683 | Florida location map | A-37-1 | Sec. 37.1 |
| 1684 | Flow direction at base of ash deposits formed in surges | A-18-3 | 18.43 |
| 1685 | Flow direction, glacial stream | A-13-1 | 13.3 |
| 1686 | Flow direction—Showing bearing and direction of plunge | A-9-1 | 9.19 |
| 1687 | Flow front, planetary—Arrow indicates flow direction | A-25-4 | 25.65 |
| 1688 | Flow lineation in direction of flow on foliation surface (A lineation)—Showing | | |
| 1689 | bearing and direction of plunge | A-9-1 | 9.7 |
| 1690 | Flow lines on lava flow | A-18-2 | 18.38 |
| 1691 | Flow lobe—Approximately located | A-18-2 | 18.29 |
| 1692 | Flow lobe—Approximately located, queried | A-18-2 | 18.30 |
| 1693 | Flow lobe—Certain | A-18-2 | 18.28 |
| 1694 | Flow lobe—Concealed | A-18-2 | 18.31 |
| 1695 | Flow lobe—Concealed, queried | A-18-2 | 18.32 |
| 1696 | Flowing well, as shown on general-purpose or smaller scale maps | A-26-2 | 26.1.29 |

| | | Page | Ref. No. |
|------|---|---------|-----------|
| 1697 | | | |
| 1698 | Flume—Intermittent | A-26-3 | 26.1.57 |
| 1699 | Flume—Perennial | A-26-3 | 26.1.56 |
| 1700 | Fluvial features | A-12-1 | Sec. 12 |
| 1701 | Fluvial terrace scarp | A-12-1 | 12.1 |
| 1702 | Fluvial transport direction | A-12-1 | 12.2 |
| 1703 | Folds | A-5-1 | Sec. 5 |
| 1704 | Folds (guidelines for use) | 11 | n/a |
| 1705 | Foliation in igneous rock | A-8-1 | Sec. 8.1 |
| 1706 | Foliation in metamorphic rock | A-8-2 | Sec. 8.2 |
| 1707 | Font selection (guidelines for map labeling) | 15 | n/a |
| 1708 | Foraminifers, in general | A-10-1 | 10.2.23 |
| 1709 | Foraminifers, larger | A-10-1 | 10.2.24 |
| 1710 | Foraminifers, smaller and benthonic | A-10-1 | 10.2.25 |
| 1711 | Foraminifers, smaller and pelagic | A-10-1 | 10.2.26 |
| 1712 | Ford | A-28-1 | 28.14 |
| 1713 | Fore-arc sediments | A-22-1 | 22.12 |
| 1714 | Former shoreline or marine limit—Approximately located | A-15-1 | 15.2 |
| 1715 | Former shoreline or marine limit—Approximately located, queried | A-15-1 | 15.3 |
| 1716 | Former shoreline or marine limit—Certain | A-15-1 | 15.1 |
| 1717 | Former shoreline or marine limit—Concealed | A-15-1 | 15.6 |
| 1718 | Former shoreline or marine limit—Concealed, queried | A-15-1 | 15.7 |
| 1719 | Former shoreline or marine limit—Inferred | A-15-1 | 15.4 |
| 1720 | Former shoreline or marine limit—Inferred, queried | A-15-1 | 15.5 |
| 1721 | Fossil localities | A-10-1 | Sec. 10.1 |
| 1722 | Fossil locality—Fossils not accessioned | A-10-1 | 10.1.2 |
| 1723 | Fossil locality—Showing collection accession number | A-10-1 | 10.1.1 |
| 1724 | Fossil symbols | A-10-1 | Sec. 10.2 |
| 1725 | Fossiliferous bedded chert lithologic pattern | Plate B | 651 |
| 1726 | Fossiliferous clastic limestone lithologic pattern | Plate B | 629 |
| 1727 | Fossiliferous rock lithologic pattern | Plate B | 652 |
| 1728 | Fossils, abundant | A-10-1 | 10.2.27 |
| 1729 | Fossils, in general | A-10-1 | 10.2.28 |
| 1730 | Fossils, sparse | A-10-1 | 10.2.29 |
| 1731 | Free-form fold symbology | A-5-8 | Sec. 5.7 |
| 1732 | Fresh-water fossils | A-10-1 | 10.2.30 |
| 1733 | Fumarole | A-18-3 | 18.55 |
| 1734 | Furrow, planetary | A-25-2 | 25.34 |
| 1735 | | | |
| 1736 | G | | |
| 1737 | | | |
| 1738 | Gaging station, as shown on general-purpose or smaller scale maps | A-26-2 | 26.1.38 |
| 1739 | Gaging station—Continuous-record | A-26-6 | 26.3.2 |
| 1740 | Gaging station—Equipped with a radio | A-26-6 | 26.3.6 |
| 1741 | Gaging station—Equipped with a telephone | A-26-6 | 26.3.6 |
| 1742 | Gaging station—Partial-record | A-26-6 | 26.3.3 |
| 1743 | Gaging station—Type of measurement unspecified | A-26-6 | 26.3.1 |

| | | Page | Ref. No. |
|------|--|---------|-----------|
| 1744 | | | |
| 1745 | Gaging station—Used for collection of water-quality data | A-26-6 | 26.2.35 |
| 1746 | Gas field—Extent defined | A-19-6 | 19.5.3 |
| 1747 | Gas field—Extent not yet defined | A-19-6 | 19.5.4 |
| 1748 | Gas fields | A-19-6 | Sec. 19.5 |
| 1749 | Gas well | A-19-7 | 19.5.24 |
| 1750 | Gas well, abandoned | A-19-7 | 19.5.26 |
| 1751 | Gas well, abandoned—Converted to injection well | A-19-7 | 19.5.28 |
| 1752 | Gas well, abandoned—Converted to water well | A-19-7 | 19.5.27 |
| 1753 | Gas well, capped | A-19-7 | 19.5.29 |
| 1754 | Gas well, shut-in | A-19-7 | 19.5.25 |
| 1755 | Gastropods | A-10-1 | 10.2.31 |
| 1756 | Gate, check | A-26-3 | 26.1.44 |
| 1757 | Gate, flood | A-26-3 | 26.1.44 |
| 1758 | Gate, head | A-26-3 | 26.1.44 |
| 1759 | Gate, sluice | A-26-3 | 26.1.42 |
| 1760 | Gate, tidal | A-26-3 | 26.1.44 |
| 1761 | Gently inclined (between 0° and 30°) bedding, determined from aerial | | |
| 1762 | photographs—Showing approximate strike and direction of dip | A-6-2 | 6.22 |
| 1763 | Geologic age symbol font (StratagemAge) keyboard positions | A-38-1 | Sec. 38 |
| 1764 | Geologic age symbol font (StratagemAge) symbols | A-38-1 | Sec. 38 |
| 1765 | Geologic age symbol font (StratagemAge) technical specifications | 10 | n/a |
| 1766 | Geologic time and ages of rock units (guidelines for use) | 11 | n/a |
| 1767 | Geophysical contours | A-11-1 | Sec. 11.2 |
| 1768 | Geophysical data collection line—Accurately located | A-3-1 | 3.2.1 |
| 1769 | Geophysical data collection line—Located by aerial survey | A-3-1 | 3.2.2 |
| 1770 | Geophysical survey lines | A-3-1 | Sec. 3.2 |
| 1771 | Geophysical survey stations | A-3-1 | Sec. 3.2 |
| 1772 | Georgia location map | A-37-1 | Sec. 37.1 |
| 1773 | Geyser | A-18-3 | 18.54 |
| 1774 | Geyser, as shown on general-purpose or smaller scale maps | A-26-2 | 26.1.31 |
| 1775 | Glacial advance limits | A-13-2 | Sec. 13 |
| 1776 | Glacial features | A-13-1 | Sec. 13 |
| 1777 | Glacial flow direction | A-13-3 | 13.46 |
| 1778 | Glacial limit or terminus—Approximately located | A-13-1 | 13.9 |
| 1779 | Glacial limit or terminus—Approximately located, queried | A-13-1 | 13.10 |
| 1780 | Glacial limit or terminus—Certain | A-13-1 | 13.8 |
| 1781 | Glacial limit or terminus—Concealed | A-13-1 | 13.11 |
| 1782 | Glacial limit or terminus—Concealed, queried | A-13-1 | 13.12 |
| 1783 | Glacial limit or terminus—Showing name (BL, Bull Lake) | A-13-1 | 13.13 |
| 1784 | Glacial meltwater channel, abandoned | A-13-1 | 13.1 |
| 1785 | Glacial meltwater spillway | A-13-1 | 13.2 |
| 1786 | Glacial patterns (Series 500) | Plate B | n/a |
| 1787 | Glacial striations | A-13-3 | Sec. 13 |
| 1788 | Glacier or permanent snowfield—Showing glacial trend | A-26-1 | 26.1.5 |
| 1789 | Glacier—Showing glacial trend | A-13-3 | 13.48 |
| 1790 | Glaciofluvial features | A-13-1 | Sec. 13 |

| | | Page | Ref. No. |
|------|---|---------|-----------|
| 1791 | | | |
| 1792 | Glauconite lithologic pattern | Plate B | 663 |
| 1793 | Glory hole | A-19-3 | 19.3.14 |
| 1794 | Glory hole—Abandoned | A-19-3 | 19.3.15 |
| 1795 | Gneiss and schist lithologic pattern | Plate B | 707 |
| 1796 | Gneiss, contorted, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 709 |
| 1797 | Gneiss lithologic pattern | Plate B | 708 |
| 1798 | Gneissoid granite lithologic pattern | Plate B | 704 |
| 1799 | Graben on small-scale maps—Ticks on downthrown side | A-2-1 | 2.1.15 |
| 1800 | Graben trace, planetary—Approximately located (shown as single line where | | |
| 1801 | bounding normal faults cannot be mapped separately) | A-25-2 | 25.22 |
| 1802 | Graben trace, planetary—Certain (shown as single line where bounding normal | | |
| 1803 | faults cannot be mapped separately) | A-25-2 | 25.21 |
| 1804 | Graben trace, planetary—Concealed (shown as single line where bounding normal | | |
| 1805 | faults cannot be mapped separately) | A-25-2 | 25.24 |
| 1806 | Graben trace, planetary—Inferred (shown as single line where bounding normal | | |
| 1807 | faults cannot be mapped separately) | A-25-2 | 25.23 |
| 1808 | Gradational contact—Approximately located | A-1-1 | 1.1.14 |
| 1809 | Gradational contact—Approximately located, queried | A-1-1 | 1.1.15 |
| 1810 | Gradational contact—Certain | A-1-1 | 1.1.13 |
| 1811 | Graded area—Extensive amount of mapped geologic unit has been removed | A-19-2 | 19.2.1 |
| 1812 | Granite, gneissoid, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 704 |
| 1813 | Granite lithologic patterns | Plate B | 718-19 |
| 1814 | Granite, schistose, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 704 |
| 1815 | Graptolites | A-10-1 | 10.2.32 |
| 1816 | Gravel, crossbedded, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 603 |
| 1817 | Gravel flat | A-26-1 | 26.1.17 |
| 1818 | Gravel lithologic patterns | Plate B | 601-02 |
| 1819 | Gravel pit | A-19-3 | 19.3.12 |
| 1820 | Gravel pit—Abandoned | A-19-3 | 19.3.12 |
| 1821 | Gravel pit filled with water | A-26-2 | 26.1.37 |
| 1822 | Gravel quarry filled with water | A-26-2 | 26.1.37 |
| 1823 | Green (color name) | 8 | n/a |
| 1824 | Ground-water barrier—Approximately located | A-26-7 | 26.6.6 |
| 1825 | Ground-water barrier—Certain | A-26-7 | 26.6.5 |
| 1826 | Ground-water divide—Approximately located | A-26-7 | 26.6.4 |
| 1827 | Ground-water divide—Certain | A-26-7 | 26.6.3 |
| 1828 | Ground-water flow direction, type 1—Approximate | A-26-7 | 26.6.10 |
| 1829 | Ground-water flow direction, type 1—Certain | A-26-7 | 26.6.8 |
| 1830 | Ground-water flow direction, type 2—Approximate | A-26-7 | 26.6.11 |
| 1831 | Ground-water flow direction, type 2—Certain | A-26-7 | 26.6.9 |
| 1832 | Guam location map | A-37-1 | Sec. 37.1 |
| 1833 | Guidelines for color design | 12 | n/a |
| 1834 | Guidelines for map labeling | 14 | n/a |
| 1835 | Guidelines for symbol usage | 10 | n/a |
| 1836 | Gulf coastline | A-26-1 | 26.1.18 |
| 1837 | Guyot | A-22-3 | 22.47 |
| 1838 | Gypsum lithologic pattern | Plate B | 667 |

| | | | | |
|------|--|---|--------|-----------|
| 1839 | | H | | |
| 1840 | | | Page | Ref. No. |
| 1841 | Hamlet boundary | | A-29-1 | 29.5 |
| 1842 | Hawaii location map | | A-37-1 | Sec. 37.1 |
| 1843 | Hazardous waste site | | A-20-1 | 20.1 |
| 1844 | Hazardous waste site—Clean-up activities are in progress | | A-20-1 | 20.5 |
| 1845 | Hazardous waste site—Clean-up activities have been completed | | A-20-1 | 20.6 |
| 1846 | Hazardous waste site—Showing direction of surface-leachate flow from site | | A-20-1 | 20.2 |
| 1847 | Hazardous waste site—Showing larger restricted area | | A-20-1 | 20.8 |
| 1848 | Hazardous waste site—Showing smaller restricted area | | A-20-1 | 20.7 |
| 1849 | Hazardous waste sites | | A-20-1 | Sec. 20 |
| 1850 | Head gate | | A-26-3 | 26.1.44 |
| 1851 | Highway bridge | | A-28-1 | 28.13 |
| 1852 | Highway in a ford | | A-28-1 | 28.14 |
| 1853 | Highway in tunnel | | A-28-1 | 28.12 |
| 1854 | Highway overpass | | A-28-1 | 28.13 |
| 1855 | Highway submerged | | A-28-1 | 28.14 |
| 1856 | Holocene age symbol | | A-38-1 | 38.12 |
| 1857 | Horizontal bedding | | A-6-1 | 6.1 |
| 1858 | Horizontal bedding, determined from aerial photographs | | A-6-2 | 6.21 |
| 1859 | Horizontal cleavage, type 1 | | A-7-1 | 7.1 |
| 1860 | Horizontal cleavage, type 2 | | A-7-1 | 7.4 |
| 1861 | Horizontal compaction foliation in ash-flow tuff | | A-8-1 | 8.1.16 |
| 1862 | Horizontal cumulate foliation parallel to layering in igneous rock | | A-8-1 | 8.1.7 |
| 1863 | Horizontal flow foliation or layering in igneous rock | | A-8-1 | 8.1.2 |
| 1864 | Horizontal foliation in metamorphic rock | | A-8-2 | 8.2.1 |
| 1865 | Horizontal foliation parallel to bedding in metamorphic rock | | A-8-2 | 8.2.6 |
| 1866 | Horizontal joint, type 1 | | A-4-1 | 4.5 |
| 1867 | Horizontal joint, type 2 | | A-4-1 | 4.8 |
| 1868 | Horizontal lineation—Showing bearing | | A-9-1 | 9.3 |
| 1869 | Horizontal minor fold axis—Showing bearing | | A-5-7 | 5.6.15 |
| 1870 | Hornito on surface of lava flow | | A-18-3 | 18.44 |
| 1871 | Hot spring (such as sulfur or alkali) | | A-26-4 | 26.1.75 |
| 1872 | Human-generated refuse (landfill) | | A-19-2 | 19.2.4 |
| 1873 | Humidity-measurement weather station | | A-27-1 | 27.7 |
| 1874 | Hummock on landslide | | A-17-1 | 17.17 |
| 1875 | Hummock on landslide (shown as point symbol when too small to outline at map | | | |
| 1876 | scale) | | A-17-1 | 17.18 |
| 1877 | Hydrography and hydrologic feature identification symbology | | A-26-1 | Sec. 26.1 |
| 1878 | Hydrologic features | | A-26-1 | Sec. 26 |
| 1879 | Hyoliths | | A-10-1 | 10.2.33 |
| 1880 | | I | | |
| 1881 | | | | |
| 1882 | | | | |
| 1883 | Ice-contact lava flow margin—Approximately located | | A-18-2 | 18.34 |
| 1884 | Ice-contact lava flow margin—Approximately located, queried | | A-18-2 | 18.35 |
| 1885 | Ice-contact lava flow margin—Certain | | A-18-2 | 18.33 |

| | | Page | Ref. No. |
|------|---|---------|-----------|
| 1886 | | | |
| 1887 | Ice-contact lava flow margin—Concealed | A-18-2 | 18.36 |
| 1888 | Ice-contact lava flow margin—Concealed, queried | A-18-2 | 18.37 |
| 1889 | Ice-contact slope—Lines point downslope | A-13-3 | 13.47 |
| 1890 | Ice margin positions | A-13-2 | Sec. 13 |
| 1891 | Ice-wedge polygons | A-14-1 | 14.8 |
| 1892 | Idaho location map | A-37-1 | Sec. 37.1 |
| 1893 | Igneous lithology patterns (Series 700) | Plate B | n/a |
| 1894 | Igneous patterns (Series 300) | Plate B | n/a |
| 1895 | Igneous rock, banded, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 720 |
| 1896 | Igneous rock lithologic patterns | Plate B | 721-28 |
| 1897 | Illinois location map | A-37-1 | Sec. 37.1 |
| 1898 | Impact crater, planetary—Having a raised rim and a visible ejecta blanket | A-25-3 | 25.52 |
| 1899 | Impact ejecta, terrestrial | A-24-2 | 24.22 |
| 1900 | Impure coal or bony coal lithologic pattern | Plate B | 659 |
| 1901 | Inaccessible adit | A-19-3 | 19.3.3 |
| 1902 | Inaccessible tunnel | A-19-3 | 19.3.3 |
| 1903 | Inaccessible vertical mine shaft | A-19-3 | 19.3.8 |
| 1904 | Inaccessible workings—Above ground | A-19-4 | 19.4.13 |
| 1905 | Inaccessible workings—Below ground | A-19-4 | 19.4.12 |
| 1906 | Inactive (closed) hazardous waste site | A-20-1 | 20.4 |
| 1907 | Inactive quality-of-water site | A-26-6 | 26.4.4 |
| 1908 | Inactive volcano on small-scale maps | A-18-3 | 18.47 |
| 1909 | Inches (in) to millimeters (mm) conversion | 6 | n/a |
| 1910 | Inches (in) to points (pts) conversion | 6 | n/a |
| 1911 | Inclined bedding in crossbedded rocks—Showing approximate strike and dip | A-6-1 | 6.16 |
| 1912 | Inclined bedding—Showing approximate strike and direction of dip | A-6-2 | 6.19 |
| 1913 | Inclined bedding—Showing strike and dip | A-6-1 | 6.3 |
| 1914 | Inclined bedding—Showing strike and dip. Top direction of beds known from | | |
| 1915 | local features | A-6-1 | 6.4 |
| 1916 | Inclined bedding—Showing strike and direction of dip | A-6-1 | 6.2 |
| 1917 | Inclined cleavage, type 1—Showing strike and dip | A-7-1 | 7.2 |
| 1918 | Inclined cleavage, type 2—Showing strike and dip | A-7-1 | 7.5 |
| 1919 | Inclined compaction foliation in ash-flow tuff—Showing strike and dip | A-8-1 | 8.1.17 |
| 1920 | Inclined crenulated or warped bedding—Showing approximate strike and dip | A-6-1 | 6.11 |
| 1921 | Inclined crinkled or deformed compaction foliation in ash-flow tuff—Showing | | |
| 1922 | approximate strike and dip | A-8-1 | 8.1.19 |
| 1923 | Inclined crinkled or deformed cumulate foliation in layered igneous rock— | | |
| 1924 | Showing approximate strike and dip | A-8-1 | 8.1.14 |
| 1925 | Inclined crinkled or deformed flow foliation or layering in igneous rock— | | |
| 1926 | Showing approximate strike and dip | A-8-1 | 8.1.5 |
| 1927 | Inclined crinkled or deformed foliation in metamorphic rock—Showing | | |
| 1928 | approximate strike and dip | A-8-2 | 8.2.4 |
| 1929 | Inclined cumulate foliation parallel to layering in igneous rock—Showing strike | | |
| 1930 | and dip | A-8-1 | 8.1.8 |
| 1931 | Inclined cumulate foliation parallel to overturned layering in igneous rock— | | |
| 1932 | Showing strike and dip | A-8-1 | 8.1.12 |
| 1933 | | | |

| | | Page | Ref. No. |
|------|--|---------|-----------|
| 1934 | | | |
| 1935 | Inclined cumulate foliation parallel to overturned layering in igneous rock— | | |
| 1936 | Showing strike and dip. Top direction of layers known from local features | A-8-1 | 8.1.13 |
| 1937 | Inclined cumulate foliation parallel to upright layering in igneous rock—Showing | | |
| 1938 | strike and dip. Top direction of layers known from local features | A-8-1 | 8.1.9 |
| 1939 | Inclined flow foliation or layering in igneous rock—Showing strike and dip | A-8-1 | 8.1.3 |
| 1940 | Inclined foliation in metamorphic rock—Showing strike and dip | A-8-2 | 8.2.2 |
| 1941 | Inclined foliation parallel to bedding in metamorphic rock—Showing strike and | | |
| 1942 | dip | A-8-2 | 8.2.7 |
| 1943 | Inclined foliation parallel to overturned bedding in metamorphic rock—Showing | | |
| 1944 | strike and dip | A-8-2 | 8.2.11 |
| 1945 | Inclined foliation parallel to overturned bedding in metamorphic rock—Showing | | |
| 1946 | strike and dip. Top direction of beds known from local features | A-8-2 | 8.2.12 |
| 1947 | Inclined foliation parallel to upright bedding in metamorphic rock—Showing | | |
| 1948 | strike and dip. Top direction of beds known from local features | A-8-2 | 8.2.8 |
| 1949 | Inclined graded bedding—Showing strike and dip | A-6-1 | 6.13 |
| 1950 | Inclined joint, type 1—Showing strike and dip | A-4-1 | 4.6 |
| 1951 | Inclined joint, type 2—Showing strike and dip | A-4-1 | 4.9 |
| 1952 | Inclined mine shaft | A-19-3 | 19.3.9 |
| 1953 | Inclined mine shaft—Abandoned or inaccessible | A-19-3 | 19.3.10 |
| 1954 | Inclined mine shaft—Above and below level | A-19-4 | 19.4.2 |
| 1955 | Inclined minor fold axis—Showing bearing and plunge | A-5-7 | 5.6.16 |
| 1956 | Inclined tunnel or adit | A-19-3 | 19.3.2 |
| 1957 | Inclined tunnel or adit, inaccessible | A-19-3 | 19.3.3 |
| 1958 | Inclined workings—Above and below level. Chevrons point down incline | A-19-4 | 19.4.8 |
| 1959 | Incorporated city boundary | A-29-1 | 29.5 |
| 1960 | Indefinite shoreline | A-26-2 | 26.1.23 |
| 1961 | Indian reservation boundary | A-29-1 | 29.10 |
| 1962 | Indiana location map | A-37-1 | Sec. 37.1 |
| 1963 | Individual states location maps | A-37-1 | Sec. 37.1 |
| 1964 | Industrial water impoundment | A-26-1 | 26.1.9 |
| 1965 | Industrial-water-supply spring | A-26-7 | 26.5.5 |
| 1966 | Industrial-water-supply well | A-26-5 | 26.2.5 |
| 1967 | Inferred (line symbol) | 10 | n/a |
| 1968 | Infiltration gallery | A-26-7 | 26.6.7 |
| 1969 | Injection well converted from abandoned gas well | A-19-7 | 19.5.28 |
| 1970 | Injection well converted from abandoned oil and gas well | A-19-7 | 19.5.35 |
| 1971 | Injection well converted from abandoned oil well | A-19-6 | 19.5.21 |
| 1972 | Injection well converted from abandoned well | A-19-7 | 19.5.38 |
| 1973 | Injection well converted from dry hole | A-19-6 | 19.5.15 |
| 1974 | Insects | A-10-1 | 10.2.34 |
| 1975 | Interbedded calcareous shale and limestone (shale dominant) lithologic pattern | Plate B | 675 |
| 1976 | Interbedded limestone and calcareous shale lithologic pattern | Plate B | 680 |
| 1977 | Interbedded limestone and shale (limestone dominant) lithologic pattern | Plate B | 679 |
| 1978 | Interbedded limestone and shale lithologic patterns | Plate B | 677-78 |
| 1979 | Interbedded ripple-bedded sandstone and shale lithologic pattern | Plate B | 671 |
| 1980 | Interbedded sandstone and shale lithologic pattern | Plate B | 670 |
| 1981 | Interbedded sandstone and siltstone lithologic pattern | Plate B | 669 |

| | | Page | Ref. No. |
|------|---|---------|-----------|
| 1982 | | | |
| 1983 | Interbedded shale and limestone (shale dominant) lithologic patterns | Plate B | 673–74 |
| 1984 | Interbedded shale and silty limestone (shale dominant) lithologic pattern | Plate B | 672 |
| 1985 | Interbedded silty limestone and shale lithologic pattern | Plate B | 676 |
| 1986 | Intermittent aqueduct | A–26–3 | 26.1.55 |
| 1987 | Intermittent braided stream | A–26–3 | 26.1.51 |
| 1988 | Intermittent channel | A–26–4 | 26.1.63 |
| 1989 | Intermittent ditch | A–26–3 | 26.1.53 |
| 1990 | Intermittent flume | A–26–3 | 26.1.57 |
| 1991 | Intermittent open water channel | A–26–4 | 26.1.63 |
| 1992 | Intermittent penstock | A–26–3 | 26.1.59 |
| 1993 | Intermittent siphon | A–26–4 | 26.1.61 |
| 1994 | Intermittent stream, type 1 | A–26–3 | 26.1.48 |
| 1995 | Intermittent stream, type 2 | A–26–3 | 26.1.49 |
| 1996 | International boundary | A–29–1 | 29.1 |
| 1997 | Interstate route number | A–28–1 | 28.9 |
| 1998 | Introduction | 1 | n/a |
| 1999 | Inundation area | A–26–1 | 26.1.7 |
| 2000 | Inverted anticline—Approximately located | A–5–3 | 5.2.16 |
| 2001 | Inverted anticline—Approximately located, queried | A–5–3 | 5.2.17 |
| 2002 | Inverted anticline—Certain | A–5–3 | 5.2.15 |
| 2003 | Inverted anticline—Concealed | A–5–3 | 5.2.20 |
| 2004 | Inverted anticline—Concealed, queried | A–5–3 | 5.2.21 |
| 2005 | Inverted anticline—Inferred | A–5–3 | 5.2.18 |
| 2006 | Inverted anticline—Inferred, queried | A–5–3 | 5.2.19 |
| 2007 | Inverted syncline—Approximately located | A–5–5 | 5.4.16 |
| 2008 | Inverted syncline—Approximately located, queried | A–5–5 | 5.4.17 |
| 2009 | Inverted syncline—Certain | A–5–5 | 5.4.15 |
| 2010 | Inverted syncline—Concealed | A–5–5 | 5.4.20 |
| 2011 | Inverted syncline—Concealed, queried | A–5–5 | 5.4.21 |
| 2012 | Inverted syncline—Inferred | A–5–5 | 5.4.18 |
| 2013 | Inverted syncline—Inferred, queried | A–5–5 | 5.4.19 |
| 2014 | Iowa location map | A–37–1 | Sec. 37.1 |
| 2015 | Irregular (burrow?) fillings of saccharoidal dolomite in limestone lithologic | | |
| 2016 | pattern | Plate B | 631 |
| 2017 | Irregularly bedded or nodular limestone lithologic pattern | Plate B | 630 |
| 2018 | Irrigation-water-supply spring | A–26–7 | 26.5.4 |
| 2019 | Irrigation-water-supply well | A–26–5 | 26.2.4 |
| 2020 | Isoclinal fold | A–5–8 | 5.7.5 |
| 2021 | Isopleths | A–11–1 | Sec. 11 |
| 2022 | | | |
| 2023 | J | | |
| 2024 | | | |
| 2025 | Jeep trail | A–28–1 | 28.8 |
| 2026 | Jetty, submerged | A–26–4 | 26.1.72 |
| 2027 | Joint—Approximately located | A–4–1 | 4.3 |
| 2028 | Joint—Certain | A–4–1 | 4.2 |

| | | Page | Ref. No. |
|------|---|--------|-----------|
| 2029 | | | |
| 2030 | Joint or fracture pattern, planetary | A-25-3 | 25.44 |
| 2031 | Joints | A-4-1 | Sec. 4 |
| 2032 | Jurassic age symbol | A-38-1 | 38.13 |
| 2033 | | | |
| 2034 | K | | |
| 2035 | | | |
| 2036 | Kame terrace scarp | A-13-1 | 13.4 |
| 2037 | Kansas location map | A-37-1 | Sec. 37.1 |
| 2038 | Kentucky location map | A-37-1 | Sec. 37.1 |
| 2039 | Kettle | A-14-1 | 14.11 |
| 2040 | Key bed—Approximately located | A-1-2 | 1.2.2 |
| 2041 | Key bed—Approximately located, queried | A-1-2 | 1.2.3 |
| 2042 | Key bed—Certain | A-1-2 | 1.2.1 |
| 2043 | Key bed—Concealed | A-1-2 | 1.2.6 |
| 2044 | Key bed—Concealed, queried | A-1-2 | 1.2.7 |
| 2045 | Key bed—Inferred | A-1-2 | 1.2.4 |
| 2046 | Key bed—Inferred, queried | A-1-2 | 1.2.5 |
| 2047 | Key bed—Showing name | A-1-2 | 1.2.8 |
| 2048 | Key bed—Showing thickness in meters and location where measured | A-1-2 | 1.2.9 |
| 2049 | | | |
| 2050 | L | | |
| 2051 | | | |
| 2052 | Label placement guidelines | 15 | n/a |
| 2053 | Labeling strategies | 14 | n/a |
| 2054 | Lacustrine features | A-15-1 | Sec. 15 |
| 2055 | Lagging or cribbing along drift | A-19-4 | 19.4.11 |
| 2056 | Lake | A-26-4 | 26.1.65 |
| 2057 | Lamellibranchs (pelecypods) | A-10-1 | 10.2.35 |
| 2058 | Land-slip fault slip surface—Approximately located | A-17-1 | 17.5 |
| 2059 | Land-slip fault slip surface—Certain | A-17-1 | 17.4 |
| 2060 | Land-slip fault slip surface—Concealed | A-17-1 | 17.7 |
| 2061 | Land-slip fault slip surface—Inferred | A-17-1 | 17.6 |
| 2062 | Landfill | A-19-2 | 19.2.4 |
| 2063 | Landslide features | A-17-1 | Sec. 17 |
| 2064 | Landslide levee crest, type 1 | A-17-1 | 17.20 |
| 2065 | Landslide levee crest, type 2 | A-17-1 | 17.21 |
| 2066 | Landslide scarp—Approximately located | A-17-1 | 17.9 |
| 2067 | Landslide scarp—Approximately located, queried | A-17-1 | 17.10 |
| 2068 | Landslide scarp—Certain | A-17-1 | 17.8 |
| 2069 | Landslide scarp—Concealed | A-17-1 | 17.11 |
| 2070 | Landslide scarp—Concealed, queried | A-17-1 | 17.12 |
| 2071 | Landslide slip surface—Approximately located | A-17-1 | 17.5 |
| 2072 | Landslide slip surface—Certain | A-17-1 | 17.4 |
| 2073 | Landslide slip surface—Concealed | A-17-1 | 17.7 |
| 2074 | Landslide slip surface—Inferred | A-17-1 | 17.6 |
| 2075 | Landslide toe, downslope to left | A-17-1 | 17.14 |

| | | Page | Ref. No. |
|------|--|---------|----------|
| 2076 | | | |
| 2077 | Landslide toe, downslope to right | A-17-1 | 17.13 |
| 2078 | Large, dammed reservoir | A-26-1 | 26.1.2 |
| 2079 | Late Archean (3,000–2,500 Ma) age symbol | A-38-1 | 38.14 |
| 2080 | Late Early Proterozoic (1,800–1,600 Ma) age symbol | A-38-1 | 38.15 |
| 2081 | Late Middle Proterozoic (1,200–900 Ma) age symbol | A-38-1 | 38.16 |
| 2082 | Late Proterozoic age symbol | A-38-1 | 38.17 |
| 2083 | Lateral levee crest, type 1 | A-17-1 | 17.20 |
| 2084 | Lateral levee crest, type 2 | A-17-1 | 17.21 |
| 2085 | Latitude tick and value | A-31-1 | 31.5 |
| 2086 | Lava fissure | A-18-2 | 18.27 |
| 2087 | Lava flow contact, separating individual flows within map unit, erupted either | | |
| 2088 | from same vent or from different vents | A-18-2 | 18.39 |
| 2089 | Lava flow cracks | A-18-2 | 18.40 |
| 2090 | Lava flow lines | A-18-2 | 18.38 |
| 2091 | Lava flow lobe—Approximately located | A-18-2 | 18.29 |
| 2092 | Lava flow lobe—Approximately located, queried | A-18-2 | 18.30 |
| 2093 | Lava flow lobe—Certain | A-18-2 | 18.28 |
| 2094 | Lava flow lobe—Concealed | A-18-2 | 18.31 |
| 2095 | Lava flow lobe—Concealed, queried | A-18-2 | 18.32 |
| 2096 | Lava-ice contact margin—Approximately located | A-18-2 | 18.34 |
| 2097 | Lava-ice contact margin—Approximately located, queried | A-18-2 | 18.35 |
| 2098 | Lava-ice contact margin—Certain | A-18-2 | 18.33 |
| 2099 | Lava-ice contact margin—Concealed | A-18-2 | 18.36 |
| 2100 | Lava-ice contact margin—Concealed, queried | A-18-2 | 18.37 |
| 2101 | Lava levee | A-18-2 | 18.21 |
| 2102 | Lava pond | A-18-2 | 18.21 |
| 2103 | Lava tube | A-18-2 | 18.24 |
| 2104 | Lava vent | A-18-2 | 18.41 |
| 2105 | Layering in canyon wall, planetary | A-25-4 | 25.69 |
| 2106 | Layering in igneous rock | A-8-1 | Sec. 8.1 |
| 2107 | Layering in metamorphic rock | A-8-2 | Sec. 8.2 |
| 2108 | Leader | A-31-1 | 31.5 |
| 2109 | Leader placement guidelines | 15 | n/a |
| 2110 | Leaves | A-10-1 | 10.2.36 |
| 2111 | Left bank | A-26-4 | 26.1.71 |
| 2112 | Left-lateral strike-slip faults | A-2-2 | Sec. 2.3 |
| 2113 | Levee crest, landslide, type 1 | A-17-1 | 17.20 |
| 2114 | Levee crest, landslide, type 2 | A-17-1 | 17.21 |
| 2115 | Light-colored ejecta, planetary | A-25-3 | 25.56 |
| 2116 | Limestone and calcareous shale, interbedded, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 680 |
| 2117 | Limestone and calcareous shale, interbedded (shale dominant), lithologic | | |
| 2118 | pattern | Plate B | 675 |
| 2119 | Limestone and shale, interbedded (limestone dominant), lithologic pattern | Plate B | 679 |
| 2120 | Limestone and shale, interbedded, lithologic patterns | Plate B | 677–78 |
| 2121 | Limestone and shale, interbedded (shale dominant), lithologic patterns | Plate B | 673–74 |
| 2122 | Limestone, argillaceous, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 638 |
| 2123 | Limestone, cherty and sandy crossbedded clastic, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 634 |

| | | Page | Ref. No. |
|------|---|---------|----------|
| 2124 | | | |
| 2125 | Limestone, cherty crossbedded, lithologic patterns | Plate B | 633 |
| 2126 | Limestone, cherty, lithologic patterns | Plate B | 639–40 |
| 2127 | Limestone, clastic cherty and sandy crossbedded, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 634 |
| 2128 | Limestone, clastic fossiliferous, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 629 |
| 2129 | Limestone, clastic, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 628 |
| 2130 | Limestone, crossbedded cherty and sandy clastic, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 634 |
| 2131 | Limestone, crossbedded cherty, lithologic patterns | Plate B | 633 |
| 2132 | Limestone, crossbedded, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 632 |
| 2133 | Limestone, dolomitic, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 641 |
| 2134 | Limestone, fossiliferous clastic, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 629 |
| 2135 | Limestone, irregular (burrow?) fillings of saccharoidal dolomite lithologic | | |
| 2136 | pattern | Plate B | 631 |
| 2137 | Limestone, irregularly bedded or nodular, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 630 |
| 2138 | Limestone lithologic pattern | Plate B | 627 |
| 2139 | Limestone, nodular or irregularly bedded, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 630 |
| 2140 | Limestone, oolitic, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 635 |
| 2141 | Limestone, sandy and cherty crossbedded clastic, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 634 |
| 2142 | Limestone, sandy, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 636 |
| 2143 | Limestone, shaly, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 638 |
| 2144 | Limestone, silty, and shale, interbedded, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 676 |
| 2145 | Limestone, silty, and shale, interbedded (shale dominant), lithologic pattern | Plate B | 672 |
| 2146 | Limestone, silty, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 637 |
| 2147 | Limit of significant glacial advance—Approximately located | A–13–2 | 13.15 |
| 2148 | Limit of significant glacial advance—Approximately located, queried | A–13–2 | 13.16 |
| 2149 | Limit of significant glacial advance—Certain | A–13–2 | 13.14 |
| 2150 | Limit of significant glacial advance—Concealed | A–13–2 | 13.17 |
| 2151 | Limit of significant glacial advance—Concealed, queried | A–13–2 | 13.18 |
| 2152 | Limit of significant glacial advance—Showing name (BL, Bull Lake) | A–13–2 | 13.19 |
| 2153 | Limonite lithologic pattern | Plate B | 664 |
| 2154 | Limy dolomite lithologic pattern | Plate B | 641 |
| 2155 | Line of equal aquifer transmissivity or hydraulic conductivity | A–11–1 | 11.1.5 |
| 2156 | Line of equal depth | A–11–1 | 11.1.2 |
| 2157 | Line of equal elevation of geologic unit surface (structure contour), first | | |
| 2158 | surface—Index | A–11–1 | 11.2.7 |
| 2159 | Line of equal elevation of geologic unit surface (structure contour), first | | |
| 2160 | surface—Index; dashed where control is poor | A–11–1 | 11.2.8 |
| 2161 | Line of equal elevation of geologic unit surface (structure contour), first | | |
| 2162 | surface—Intermediate | A–11–1 | 11.2.9 |
| 2163 | Line of equal elevation of geologic unit surface (structure contour), first | | |
| 2164 | surface—Intermediate; dashed where control is poor | A–11–1 | 11.2.10 |
| 2165 | Line of equal elevation of geologic unit surface (structure contour), second | | |
| 2166 | surface—Intermediate | A–11–1 | 11.2.13 |
| 2167 | Line of equal elevation of geologic unit surface (structure contour), second | | |
| 2168 | surface—Intermediate; dashed where control is poor | A–11–1 | 11.2.14 |
| 2169 | Line of equal elevation of geologic unit surface (structure contour), second | | |
| 2170 | surface—Index | A–11–1 | 11.2.11 |
| 2171 | Line of equal elevation of geologic unit surface (structure contour), second | | |
| 2172 | surface—Index; dashed where control is poor | A–11–1 | 11.2.12 |

| | | Page | Ref. No. |
|------|--|---------|-----------|
| 2173 | | | |
| 2174 | Line of equal intensity of potential field (geophysical contour)—Index | A-11-1 | 11.2.1 |
| 2175 | Line of equal intensity of potential field (geophysical contour)—Index; dashed | | |
| 2176 | where data is incomplete | A-11-1 | 11.2.2 |
| 2177 | Line of equal intensity of potential field (geophysical contour)—Intermediate | A-11-1 | 11.2.3 |
| 2178 | Line of equal intensity of potential field (geophysical contour)—Intermediate; | | |
| 2179 | dashed where data is incomplete | A-11-1 | 11.2.4 |
| 2180 | Line of equal intensity of potential field (geophysical contour)—Intermediate; | | |
| 2181 | hachures indicate closed areas of lower values | A-11-1 | 11.2.5 |
| 2182 | Line of equal physical or chemical property of water | A-11-1 | 11.1.7 |
| 2183 | Line of equal precipitation | A-11-1 | 11.1.3 |
| 2184 | Line of equal runoff | A-11-1 | 11.1.4 |
| 2185 | Line of equal thickness or equal chemical value | A-11-1 | 11.1.1 |
| 2186 | Line of equal water-level change | A-11-1 | 11.1.6 |
| 2187 | Line symbols (guidelines for usage) | 10 | n/a |
| 2188 | Lineament | A-4-1 | 4.1 |
| 2189 | Lineament, planetary | A-25-3 | 25.42 |
| 2190 | Lineaments | A-4-1 | Sec. 4 |
| 2191 | Lination | A-9-1 | Sec. 9 |
| 2192 | Lination at intersection of bedding and cleavage—Showing bearing and | | |
| 2193 | direction of plunge | A-9-1 | 9.15 |
| 2194 | Lination at intersection of foliation and cleavage—Showing bearing and | | |
| 2195 | direction of plunge | A-9-1 | 9.16 |
| 2196 | Lination indicated by aligned elongate minerals on foliation surface parallel to | | |
| 2197 | minor folds (B lination)—Showing bearing and direction of plunge | A-9-1 | 9.9 |
| 2198 | Lination indicated by aligned mineral grains in cumulate rocks—Showing | | |
| 2199 | bearing and direction of plunge | A-9-1 | 9.10 |
| 2200 | Lination indicated by trough banding in cumulate rocks—Showing bearing and | | |
| 2201 | direction of plunge | A-9-1 | 9.11 |
| 2202 | Lination indicating axes of minor folds formed by flow (B lination)—Showing | | |
| 2203 | bearing and direction of plunge | A-9-1 | 9.8 |
| 2204 | Lination indicating flow direction at base of ash deposits formed in surges— | | |
| 2205 | Showing bearing and direction of plunge | A-9-1 | 9.12 |
| 2206 | Lination indicating flow direction in ash-flow tuff—Showing bearing and | | |
| 2207 | direction of plunge | A-9-1 | 9.13 |
| 2208 | Lination indicating minor folds normal to flow in ash-flow tuff—Showing | | |
| 2209 | bearing and direction of plunge | A-9-1 | 9.14 |
| 2210 | Lination on cleavage surface—Showing bearing and direction of plunge | A-9-1 | 9.17 |
| 2211 | Lination on contacts | A-1-1 | Sec. 1.1 |
| 2212 | Lination on faults | A-2-1 | Sec. 2.1 |
| 2213 | Lination—Showing bearing and direction of plunge | A-9-1 | 9.1 |
| 2214 | Lination—Showing bearing and plunge | A-9-1 | 9.2 |
| 2215 | Lines of equal chemical properties | A-11-1 | Sec. 11.1 |
| 2216 | Lines of equal physical properties | A-11-1 | Sec. 11.1 |
| 2217 | Lithologic patterns | Plate B | n/a |
| 2218 | Lobate scarp, planetary | A-25-2 | 25.38 |
| 2219 | Lock | A-26-3 | 26.1.42 |
| 2220 | Loess lithologic pattern | Plate B | 615 |
| 2221 | Long ridge crest, planetary | A-25-2 | 25.31 |

| | | Page | Ref. No. |
|------|--|---------|-----------|
| 2222 | | | |
| 2223 | Longitude tick and value | A-31-1 | 31.5 |
| 2224 | Louisiana location map | A-37-1 | Sec. 37.1 |
| 2225 | Low-flow measurement station | A-26-6 | 26.3.8 |
| 2226 | | | |
| 2227 | M | | |
| 2228 | | | |
| 2229 | Magnetic north, east of true north, declination arrows | A-36-1 | Sec. 36.1 |
| 2230 | Magnetic north, west of true north, declination arrows | A-36-3 | Sec. 36.2 |
| 2231 | Magnitude 4–5.49 earthquake | A-21-1 | 21.6 |
| 2232 | Magnitude 5.5–5.99 earthquake | A-21-1 | 21.5 |
| 2233 | Magnitude 6–6.49 earthquake | A-21-1 | 21.4 |
| 2234 | Magnitude 6.5–6.99 earthquake | A-21-1 | 21.3 |
| 2235 | Magnitude 7–7.49 earthquake | A-21-1 | 21.2 |
| 2236 | Magnitude 7.5 or larger earthquake | A-21-1 | 21.1 |
| 2237 | Magnitude less than 4 earthquake | A-21-1 | 21.7 |
| 2238 | Maine location map | A-37-1 | Sec. 37.1 |
| 2239 | Maintenance authority (of draft standard) | 2 | n/a |
| 2240 | Major tension crack, related to landslide, slump, or mass movement | A-17-1 | 17.1 |
| 2241 | Mangrove area | A-26-1 | 26.1.14 |
| 2242 | Manmade shoreline | A-26-2 | 26.1.22 |
| 2243 | Map labeling guidelines | 14 | n/a |
| 2244 | Map marginalia (additions to standard) | 4 | n/a |
| 2245 | Map neatline | A-31-1 | 31.5 |
| 2246 | Map unit label and leader | A-31-1 | 31.7 |
| 2247 | Map unit label (containing geologic age characters) and leader | A-31-1 | 31.8 |
| 2248 | Margin of glacially scoured basin—Approximately located | A-13-3 | 13.42 |
| 2249 | Margin of glacially scoured basin—Approximately located, queried | A-13-3 | 13.43 |
| 2250 | Margin of glacially scoured basin—Certain | A-13-3 | 13.41 |
| 2251 | Margin of glacially scoured basin—Concealed | A-13-3 | 13.44 |
| 2252 | Margin of glacially scoured basin—Concealed, queried | A-13-3 | 13.45 |
| 2253 | Margin of oceanic rise—Approximately located | A-22-2 | 22.42 |
| 2254 | Margin of oceanic rise—Approximately located, queried | A-22-2 | 22.43 |
| 2255 | Margin of oceanic rise—Certain | A-22-2 | 22.41 |
| 2256 | Marine-abrasion platform | A-15-1 | 15.21 |
| 2257 | Marine features | A-15-1 | Sec. 15 |
| 2258 | Marine fossils | A-10-1 | 10.2.37 |
| 2259 | Marl lithologic pattern | Plate B | 623 |
| 2260 | Marsh | A-26-1 | 26.1.13 |
| 2261 | Maryland location map | A-37-1 | Sec. 37.1 |
| 2262 | Mass-wasting features | A-17-1 | Sec. 17 |
| 2263 | Massachusetts location map | A-37-1 | Sec. 37.1 |
| 2264 | Massive igneous rock | A-8-1 | 8.1.1 |
| 2265 | Massive sand lithologic pattern | Plate B | 607 |
| 2266 | Massive sandstone lithologic pattern | Plate B | 607 |
| 2267 | Maximum intensity within closed high or closed low | A-11-1 | 11.2.6 |
| 2268 | Mean declination arrows | A-36-1 | Sec. 36 |

| | | Page | Ref. No. |
|------|--|---------|-----------|
| 2269 | | | |
| 2270 | Measurement station without a gage | A-26-6 | 26.3.4 |
| 2271 | Measurements (abbreviations) | 8 | n/a |
| 2272 | Mesozoic age symbol | A-38-1 | 38.18 |
| 2273 | Metamorphic core complex—Approximately located | A-23-1 | 23.2 |
| 2274 | Metamorphic core complex—Approximately located, queried | A-23-1 | 23.3 |
| 2275 | Metamorphic core complex—Certain | A-23-1 | 23.1 |
| 2276 | Metamorphic facies boundary—Showing approximate boundary between | | |
| 2277 | diagnostic mineral assemblages | A-19-1 | 19.1.14 |
| 2278 | Metamorphic lithology patterns (Series 700) | Plate B | n/a |
| 2279 | Metamorphic patterns (Series 400) | Plate B | n/a |
| 2280 | Metamorphism lithologic pattern | Plate B | 701 |
| 2281 | Michigan location map | A-37-1 | Sec. 37.1 |
| 2282 | Microfossils, calcareous | A-10-1 | 10.2.38 |
| 2283 | Microfossils, in general | A-10-1 | 10.2.39 |
| 2284 | Mid-oceanic ridge, active, with rift—Approximately located | A-22-1 | 22.2 |
| 2285 | Mid-oceanic ridge, active, with rift—Approximately located, queried | A-22-1 | 22.3 |
| 2286 | Mid-oceanic ridge, active, with rift—Certain | A-22-1 | 22.1 |
| 2287 | Mid-oceanic ridge, active, without rift—Approximately located | A-22-1 | 22.5 |
| 2288 | Mid-oceanic ridge, active, without rift—Approximately located, queried | A-22-1 | 22.6 |
| 2289 | Mid-oceanic ridge, active, without rift—Certain | A-22-1 | 22.4 |
| 2290 | Mid-oceanic ridge, ancient—Certain | A-22-1 | 22.7 |
| 2291 | Mid-oceanic ridge, ancient—Uncertain | A-22-1 | 22.8 |
| 2292 | Middle Archean (3,400–3,000 Ma) age symbol | A-38-1 | 38.19 |
| 2293 | Middle Early Proterozoic (2,100–1,800 Ma) age symbol | A-38-1 | 38.20 |
| 2294 | Middle Middle Proterozoic (1,400–1,200 Ma) age symbol | A-38-1 | 38.21 |
| 2295 | Middle Proterozoic age symbol | A-38-1 | 38.22 |
| 2296 | Mile marker | A-26-4 | 26.1.77 |
| 2297 | Military reservation boundary | A-29-1 | 29.11 |
| 2298 | Millimeters (mm) to inches (in) conversion | 6 | n/a |
| 2299 | Millimeters (mm) to points (pts) conversion | 6 | n/a |
| 2300 | Mine dump (section view) | A-19-5 | 19.4.21 |
| 2301 | Mine dump (surface view) | A-19-2 | 19.2.8 |
| 2302 | Mine shaft—Above and below level | A-19-4 | 19.4.1 |
| 2303 | Mine shaft bottom | A-19-4 | 19.4.3 |
| 2304 | Mine shafts | A-19-3 | Sec. 19.3 |
| 2305 | Mine tunnel and workings (section view)—High certainty | A-19-5 | 19.4.17 |
| 2306 | Mine tunnel and workings (section view)—Low certainty | A-19-5 | 19.4.19 |
| 2307 | Mine tunnel and workings (section view)—Medium certainty | A-19-5 | 19.4.18 |
| 2308 | Mineral exploration drill hole | A-19-3 | 19.3.1 |
| 2309 | Mineral-exploration symbology | A-19-3 | Sec. 19.3 |
| 2310 | Mineral lineation indicated by aligned streaks on foliation surface (A lineation)— | | |
| 2311 | Showing bearing and direction of plunge | A-9-1 | 9.5 |
| 2312 | Mineral resource areas | A-19-1 | Sec. 19.1 |
| 2313 | Mineral resource potential levels | A-19-1 | Sec. 19.1 |
| 2314 | Mineral spring | A-26-7 | 26.5.9 |
| 2315 | Mineral spring (such as sulfur or alkali) | A-26-4 | 26.1.75 |
| 2316 | Mineralized areas | A-19-1 | Sec. 19.1 |

| | | Page | Ref. No. |
|------|---|---------|-----------|
| 2317 | | | |
| 2318 | Mineralized rock, type 1 | A-19-1 | 19.1.11 |
| 2319 | Mineralized rock, type 2—High level of mineralization | A-19-1 | 19.1.12 |
| 2320 | Mineralized rock, type 2—Low level of mineralization | A-19-1 | 19.1.13 |
| 2321 | Mineralized stringers | A-19-1 | 19.1.8 |
| 2322 | Mines | A-19-4 | Sec. 19.4 |
| 2323 | Minimum intensity within closed high or closed low | A-11-1 | 11.2.6 |
| 2324 | Mining symbology | A-19-3 | Sec. 19.3 |
| 2325 | Minnesota location map | A-37-2 | Sec. 37.1 |
| 2326 | Minor anticline, inclined axial surface—Showing strike and dip | A-5-7 | 5.6.5 |
| 2327 | Minor anticline—Showing bearing and plunge | A-5-7 | 5.6.17 |
| 2328 | Minor anticline, vertical or near-vertical axial surface—Showing strike | A-5-7 | 5.6.4 |
| 2329 | Minor antiform, inclined axial surface—Showing strike and dip | A-5-7 | 5.6.3 |
| 2330 | Minor antiform, vertical or near-vertical axial surface—Showing strike | A-5-7 | 5.6.2 |
| 2331 | Minor basin | A-5-7 | 5.6.13 |
| 2332 | Minor dome | A-5-7 | 5.6.12 |
| 2333 | Minor faults | A-2-1 | Sec. 2.1 |
| 2334 | Minor fold, dextral rotation sense (Z-shaped asymmetry)—Showing bearing and | | |
| 2335 | plunge | A-5-7 | 5.6.19 |
| 2336 | Minor fold, horizontal axial surface | A-5-7 | 5.6.1 |
| 2337 | Minor fold, sinistral rotation sense (S-shaped asymmetry)—Showing bearing and | | |
| 2338 | plunge | A-5-7 | 5.6.20 |
| 2339 | Minor folds | A-5-7 | Sec. 5.6 |
| 2340 | Minor folds—Showing bearing and plunge | A-5-7 | 5.6.21 |
| 2341 | Minor inclined fault—Showing strike and dip | A-2-1 | 2.1.21 |
| 2342 | Minor inclined vein—Showing strike and dip | A-19-1 | 19.1.9 |
| 2343 | Minor overturned anticline, inclined axial surface—Showing strike and dip | A-5-7 | 5.6.6 |
| 2344 | Minor overturned syncline, inclined axial surface—Showing strike and dip | A-5-7 | 5.6.11 |
| 2345 | Minor syncline, inclined axial surface—Showing strike and dip | A-5-7 | 5.6.10 |
| 2346 | Minor syncline—Showing bearing and plunge | A-5-7 | 5.6.18 |
| 2347 | Minor syncline, vertical or near-vertical axial surface—Showing strike | A-5-7 | 5.6.9 |
| 2348 | Minor synform, inclined axial surface—Showing strike and dip | A-5-7 | 5.6.8 |
| 2349 | Minor synform, vertical or near-vertical axial surface—Showing strike | A-5-7 | 5.6.7 |
| 2350 | Minor tension crack, related to landslide, slump, or mass movement | A-17-1 | 17.2 |
| 2351 | Minor vertical or near-vertical fault—Showing strike | A-2-1 | 2.1.22 |
| 2352 | Minor vertical or near-vertical vein—Showing strike | A-19-1 | 19.1.10 |
| 2353 | Miocene age symbol | A-38-2 | 38.23 |
| 2354 | Miscellaneous hydrologic symbols | A-26-7 | Sec. 26.6 |
| 2355 | Miscellaneous map elements | A-31-1 | Sec. 31 |
| 2356 | Miscellaneous patterns (Series 400) | Plate B | n/a |
| 2357 | Mississippi location map | A-37-2 | Sec. 37.1 |
| 2358 | Mississippian age symbol | A-38-2 | 38.24 |
| 2359 | Missouri location map | A-37-2 | Sec. 37.1 |
| 2360 | Moderately inclined (between 30° and 60°) bedding, determined from aerial | | |
| 2361 | photographs—Showing approximate strike and direction of dip | A-6-2 | 6.23 |
| 2362 | Monocline, anticlinal bend—Approximately located | A-5-6 | 5.5.9 |
| 2363 | Monocline, anticlinal bend—Approximately located, queried | A-5-6 | 5.5.10 |
| 2364 | Monocline, anticlinal bend—Certain | A-5-6 | 5.5.8 |

| | | Page | Ref. No. |
|------|---|--------|-----------|
| 2365 | | | |
| 2366 | Monocline, anticlinal bend—Concealed | A-5-6 | 5.5.13 |
| 2367 | Monocline, anticlinal bend—Concealed, queried | A-5-6 | 5.5.14 |
| 2368 | Monocline, anticlinal bend—Inferred | A-5-6 | 5.5.11 |
| 2369 | Monocline, anticlinal bend—Inferred, queried | A-5-6 | 5.5.12 |
| 2370 | Monocline—Approximately located | A-5-6 | 5.5.2 |
| 2371 | Monocline—Approximately located, queried | A-5-6 | 5.5.3 |
| 2372 | Monocline—Certain | A-5-6 | 5.5.1 |
| 2373 | Monocline—Concealed | A-5-6 | 5.5.6 |
| 2374 | Monocline—Concealed, queried | A-5-6 | 5.5.7 |
| 2375 | Monocline—Inferred | A-5-6 | 5.5.4 |
| 2376 | Monocline—Inferred, queried | A-5-6 | 5.5.5 |
| 2377 | Monocline, synclinal bend—Approximately located | A-5-6 | 5.5.16 |
| 2378 | Monocline, synclinal bend—Approximately located, queried | A-5-6 | 5.5.17 |
| 2379 | Monocline, synclinal bend—Concealed | A-5-6 | 5.5.20 |
| 2380 | Monocline, synclinal bend—Certain | A-5-6 | 5.5.15 |
| 2381 | Monocline, synclinal bend—Concealed, queried | A-5-6 | 5.5.21 |
| 2382 | Monocline, synclinal bend—Inferred | A-5-6 | 5.5.18 |
| 2383 | Monocline, synclinal bend—Inferred, queried | A-5-6 | 5.5.19 |
| 2384 | Montana location map | A-37-2 | Sec. 37.1 |
| 2385 | Moraines | A-13-2 | Sec. 13 |
| 2386 | Mound within complex terrestrial impact crater | A-24-2 | 24.20 |
| 2387 | Mountain (rugged), planetary—Origin uncertain | A-25-4 | 25.66 |
| 2388 | Mud flat | A-26-1 | 26.1.17 |
| 2389 | Multiple joints of a single type | A-4-1 | 4.11 |
| 2390 | Multiple joints of a single type (use when multiple symbols would otherwise | | |
| 2391 | overlap) | A-4-1 | 4.12 |
| 2392 | Multiple joints of different types | A-4-1 | 4.13 |
| 2393 | Multiple joints of different types (use when multiple symbols would otherwise | | |
| 2394 | overlap) | A-4-1 | 4.14 |
| 2395 | Multiple joints—Showing dip where known | A-4-1 | 4.4 |
| 2396 | Multiple vertical mine shafts | A-19-3 | 19.3.7 |
| 2397 | | | |
| 2398 | N | | |
| 2399 | | | |
| 2400 | Name on faults | A-2-1 | Sec. 2.1 |
| 2401 | Name on folds | A-5-1 | Sec. 5.1 |
| 2402 | Narrow depression, planetary | A-25-2 | 25.33 |
| 2403 | National battlefield boundary | A-29-1 | 29.6 |
| 2404 | National fish hatchery boundary | A-29-1 | 29.8 |
| 2405 | National forest boundary | A-29-1 | 29.7 |
| 2406 | National game preserve boundary | A-29-1 | 29.8 |
| 2407 | National grassland boundary | A-29-1 | 29.7 |
| 2408 | National lakeshore boundary | A-29-1 | 29.6 |
| 2409 | National monument boundary | A-29-1 | 29.6 |
| 2410 | National park boundary | A-29-1 | 29.6 |
| 2411 | National parkway boundary | A-29-1 | 29.6 |
| 2412 | National recreation area boundary | A-29-1 | 29.6 |

| | | Page | Ref. No. |
|------|--|---------|-----------|
| 2413 | | | |
| 2414 | National scenic waterway boundary | A-29-1 | 29.9 |
| 2415 | National seashore boundary | A-29-1 | 29.6 |
| 2416 | National wilderness area boundary | A-29-1 | 29.9 |
| 2417 | National wildlife refuge boundary | A-29-1 | 29.8 |
| 2418 | Natural resources | A-19-1 | Sec. 19 |
| 2419 | Neatline | A-31-1 | 31.5 |
| 2420 | Nebraska location map | A-37-2 | Sec. 37.1 |
| 2421 | Needles | A-10-1 | 10.2.40 |
| 2422 | Neogene age symbol | A-38-2 | 38.25 |
| 2423 | Neotectonic features | A-21-1 | Sec. 21 |
| 2424 | Nevada location map | A-37-2 | Sec. 37.1 |
| 2425 | New Hampshire location map | A-37-2 | Sec. 37.1 |
| 2426 | New Jersey location map | A-37-2 | Sec. 37.1 |
| 2427 | New Mexico location map | A-37-2 | Sec. 37.1 |
| 2428 | New York location map | A-37-2 | Sec. 37.1 |
| 2429 | Nodular or irregularly bedded limestone lithologic pattern | Plate B | 630 |
| 2430 | Nonflowing artesian well | A-26-5 | 26.2.9 |
| 2431 | Nonflowing well, as shown on general-purpose or smaller scale maps | A-26-2 | 26.1.28 |
| 2432 | Normal fault—Approximately located | A-2-2 | 2.2.2 |
| 2433 | Normal fault—Approximately located, queried | A-2-2 | 2.2.3 |
| 2434 | Normal fault—Certain | A-2-2 | 2.2.1 |
| 2435 | Normal fault—Concealed | A-2-2 | 2.2.6 |
| 2436 | Normal fault—Concealed, queried | A-2-2 | 2.2.7 |
| 2437 | Normal fault—Inferred | A-2-2 | 2.2.4 |
| 2438 | Normal fault—Inferred, queried | A-2-2 | 2.2.5 |
| 2439 | Normal fault on small-scale maps—Tick on downthrown side | A-2-1 | 2.1.14 |
| 2440 | North Carolina location map | A-37-2 | Sec. 37.1 |
| 2441 | North Dakota location map | A-37-2 | Sec. 37.1 |
| 2442 | | | |
| 2443 | O | | |
| 2444 | | | |
| 2445 | Objective (of draft standard) | 1 | n/a |
| 2446 | Observation water well | A-26-5 | 26.2.11 |
| 2447 | Observation water well—Equipped with recorder | A-26-5 | 26.2.12 |
| 2448 | Ocean coastline | A-26-1 | 26.1.18 |
| 2449 | Oceanic rise—Approximately located | A-22-2 | 22.42 |
| 2450 | Oceanic rise—Approximately located, queried | A-22-2 | 22.43 |
| 2451 | Oceanic rise—Certain | A-22-2 | 22.41 |
| 2452 | Ohio location map | A-37-2 | Sec. 37.1 |
| 2453 | Oil and gas field—Extent defined | A-19-6 | 19.5.5 |
| 2454 | Oil and gas field—Extent not yet defined | A-19-6 | 19.5.6 |
| 2455 | Oil and gas well | A-19-7 | 19.5.31 |
| 2456 | Oil and gas well, abandoned | A-19-7 | 19.5.33 |
| 2457 | Oil and gas well, abandoned—Converted to injection well | A-19-7 | 19.5.35 |
| 2458 | Oil and gas well, abandoned—Converted to water well | A-19-7 | 19.5.34 |
| 2459 | Oil and gas well, capped | A-19-7 | 19.5.36 |

| | | Page | Ref. No. |
|------|--|---------|-----------|
| 2460 | | | |
| 2461 | Oil and gas well, shut-in | A-19-7 | 19.5.32 |
| 2462 | Oil field—Extent defined | A-19-6 | 19.5.1 |
| 2463 | Oil field—Extent not yet defined | A-19-6 | 19.5.2 |
| 2464 | Oil shale lithologic pattern | Plate B | 625 |
| 2465 | Oil well | A-19-6 | 19.5.17 |
| 2466 | Oil well, abandoned | A-19-6 | 19.5.19 |
| 2467 | Oil well, abandoned—Converted to injection well | A-19-6 | 19.5.21 |
| 2468 | Oil well, abandoned—Converted to water well | A-19-6 | 19.5.20 |
| 2469 | Oil well, capped | A-19-6 | 19.5.22 |
| 2470 | Oil well, shut-in | A-19-6 | 19.5.18 |
| 2471 | Oklahoma location map | A-37-2 | Sec. 37.1 |
| 2472 | Older glacial striations—Showing bearing and direction of flow | A-13-3 | 13.36 |
| 2473 | Older glacial striations—Showing bearing of flow; flow direction unknown | A-13-3 | 13.38 |
| 2474 | Oligocene age symbol | A-38-2 | 38.26 |
| 2475 | Oncolites | A-10-1 | 10.2.41 |
| 2476 | Oolitic dolomite lithologic pattern | Plate B | 644 |
| 2477 | Oolitic limestone lithologic pattern | Plate B | 635 |
| 2478 | Open anticlinal fold | A-5-8 | 5.7.1 |
| 2479 | Open pit | A-19-3 | 19.3.14 |
| 2480 | Open pit—Abandoned | A-19-3 | 19.3.15 |
| 2481 | Open pit mine (surface view) | A-19-2 | 19.2.5 |
| 2482 | Open synclinal fold | A-5-8 | 5.7.3 |
| 2483 | Open water channel—Intermittent | A-26-4 | 26.1.63 |
| 2484 | Open water channel—Perennial | A-26-4 | 26.1.62 |
| 2485 | Ordovician age symbol | A-38-2 | 38.27 |
| 2486 | Ore chute | A-19-4 | 19.4.7 |
| 2487 | Ore lithologic pattern | Plate B | 733 |
| 2488 | Oregon location map | A-37-2 | Sec. 37.1 |
| 2489 | Ostracodes | A-10-1 | 10.2.42 |
| 2490 | Outcrop areas of key bed, type 1 | A-1-2 | 1.2.10 |
| 2491 | Outcrop areas of key bed, type 2 | A-1-2 | 1.2.11 |
| 2492 | Outer boundary, central mound of complex terrestrial impact crater | A-24-2 | 24.20 |
| 2493 | Outer boundary, floor of terrestrial impact crater | A-24-2 | 24.19 |
| 2494 | Outer limit of subsidence—Approximately located | A-21-2 | 21.21 |
| 2495 | Outer limit of subsidence—Approximately located, queried | A-21-2 | 21.22 |
| 2496 | Outer limit of subsidence—Certain | A-21-2 | 21.20 |
| 2497 | Outer limit of subsidence—Concealed | A-21-2 | 21.23 |
| 2498 | Outer limit of subsidence—Concealed, queried | A-21-2 | 21.24 |
| 2499 | Outline of a Carolina bay | A-26-2 | 26.1.25 |
| 2500 | Outline of basalt-filled lava pond that is bounded by levees | A-18-2 | 18.21 |
| 2501 | Outline of basin—Approximately located | A-22-2 | 22.38 |
| 2502 | Outline of basin—Approximately located, queried | A-22-2 | 22.39 |
| 2503 | Outline of basin—Certain | A-22-2 | 22.37 |
| 2504 | Outline of metamorphic core complex—Approximately located | A-23-1 | 23.2 |
| 2505 | Outline of metamorphic core complex—Approximately located, queried | A-23-1 | 23.3 |
| 2506 | Outline of metamorphic core complex—Certain | A-23-1 | 23.1 |

| | | Page | Ref. No. |
|------|--|--------|----------|
| 2507 | | | |
| 2508 | Overpass | A-28-1 | 28.13 |
| 2509 | Overprint patterns (guidelines for use) | 14 | n/a |
| 2510 | Overtured anticline—Approximately located | A-5-3 | 5.2.9 |
| 2511 | Overtured anticline—Approximately located, queried | A-5-3 | 5.2.10 |
| 2512 | Overtured anticline—Certain | A-5-3 | 5.2.8 |
| 2513 | Overtured anticline—Concealed | A-5-3 | 5.2.13 |
| 2514 | Overtured anticline—Concealed, queried | A-5-3 | 5.2.14 |
| 2515 | Overtured anticline—Inferred | A-5-3 | 5.2.11 |
| 2516 | Overtured anticline—Inferred, queried | A-5-3 | 5.2.12 |
| 2517 | Overtured bedding in crossbedded rocks—Showing approximate strike and dip | A-6-1 | 6.18 |
| 2518 | Overtured bedding—Showing strike and dip | A-6-1 | 6.7 |
| 2519 | Overtured bedding—Showing strike and dip. Top direction of beds known from | | |
| 2520 | local features | A-6-1 | 6.8 |
| 2521 | Overtured contact—Showing dip where known | A-1-1 | 1.1.9 |
| 2522 | Overtured graded bedding—Showing strike and dip | A-6-1 | 6.15 |
| 2523 | Overtured syncline—Approximately located | A-5-5 | 5.4.9 |
| 2524 | Overtured syncline—Approximately located, queried | A-5-5 | 5.4.10 |
| 2525 | Overtured syncline—Certain | A-5-5 | 5.4.8 |
| 2526 | Overtured syncline—Concealed | A-5-5 | 5.4.13 |
| 2527 | Overtured syncline—Concealed, queried | A-5-5 | 5.4.14 |
| 2528 | Overtured syncline—Inferred | A-5-5 | 5.4.11 |
| 2529 | Overtured syncline—Inferred, queried | A-5-5 | 5.4.12 |
| 2530 | Overtured thrust fault, 1st generation—Approximately located | A-2-4 | 2.5.2 |
| 2531 | Overtured thrust fault, 1st generation—Approximately located, queried | A-2-4 | 2.5.3 |
| 2532 | Overtured thrust fault, 1st generation—Concealed | A-2-4 | 2.5.6 |
| 2533 | Overtured thrust fault, 1st generation—Concealed, queried | A-2-4 | 2.5.7 |
| 2534 | Overtured thrust fault, 1st generation—Certain | A-2-4 | 2.5.1 |
| 2535 | Overtured thrust fault, 1st generation—Inferred | A-2-4 | 2.5.4 |
| 2536 | Overtured thrust fault, 1st generation—Inferred, queried | A-2-4 | 2.5.5 |
| 2537 | Overtured thrust fault, 2nd generation—Approximately located | A-2-4 | 2.5.9 |
| 2538 | Overtured thrust fault, 2nd generation—Approximately located, queried | A-2-4 | 2.5.10 |
| 2539 | Overtured thrust fault, 2nd generation—Concealed | A-2-4 | 2.5.13 |
| 2540 | Overtured thrust fault, 2nd generation—Concealed, queried | A-2-4 | 2.5.14 |
| 2541 | Overtured thrust fault, 2nd generation—Certain | A-2-4 | 2.5.8 |
| 2542 | Overtured thrust fault, 2nd generation—Inferred | A-2-4 | 2.5.11 |
| 2543 | Overtured thrust fault, 2nd generation—Inferred, queried | A-2-4 | 2.5.12 |
| 2544 | Overtured thrust fault, 3rd generation—Approximately located | A-2-4 | 2.5.16 |
| 2545 | Overtured thrust fault, 3rd generation—Approximately located, queried | A-2-4 | 2.5.17 |
| 2546 | Overtured thrust fault, 3rd generation—Concealed | A-2-4 | 2.5.20 |
| 2547 | Overtured thrust fault, 3rd generation—Concealed, queried | A-2-4 | 2.5.21 |
| 2548 | Overtured thrust fault, 3rd generation—Certain | A-2-4 | 2.5.15 |
| 2549 | Overtured thrust fault, 3rd generation—Inferred | A-2-4 | 2.5.18 |
| 2550 | Overtured thrust fault, 3rd generation—Inferred, queried | A-2-4 | 2.5.19 |
| 2551 | | | |
| 2552 | | | |
| 2553 | | | |

| P | | Page | Ref. No. |
|------|--|---------|-----------|
| 2554 | | | |
| 2555 | | | |
| 2556 | Paleocene age symbol | A-38-2 | 38.28 |
| 2557 | Paleogene age symbol | A-38-2 | 38.29 |
| 2558 | Paleontological features | A-10-1 | Sec. 10 |
| 2559 | Paleozoic age symbol | A-38-2 | 38.30 |
| 2560 | Palimpsest area around complex terrestrial impact feature—Ejecta obscures | | |
| 2561 | morphology of area surrounding crater | A-24-2 | 24.23 |
| 2562 | Palimpsest area, terrestrial | A-24-2 | 24.21 |
| 2563 | Palimpsest ring, planetary | A-25-3 | 25.54 |
| 2564 | Pantone color | 7 | n/a |
| 2565 | Park, national, boundary | A-29-1 | 29.6 |
| 2566 | Park, small, boundary | A-29-1 | 29.12 |
| 2567 | Partial-record gaging station | A-26-6 | 26.3.3 |
| 2568 | Path of gully on landslide | A-17-1 | 17.16 |
| 2569 | Pattern chart | Plate B | n/a |
| 2570 | Pattern chart (explanation) | A-32-1 | Sec. 32 |
| 2571 | Pattern specifications | 9 | n/a |
| 2572 | Patterns (guidelines for use) | 12 | n/a |
| 2573 | Peak-flow measurement station | A-26-6 | 26.3.7 |
| 2574 | Peat lithologic pattern | Plate B | 657 |
| 2575 | Penetrative lineation—Showing bearing and direction of plunge in combination | | |
| 2576 | with foliation symbol | A-9-1 | 9.18 |
| 2577 | Pennsylvania location map | A-37-2 | Sec. 37.1 |
| 2578 | Pennsylvanian age symbol | A-38-2 | 38.31 |
| 2579 | Penstock—Intermittent | A-26-3 | 26.1.59 |
| 2580 | Penstock—Perennial | A-26-3 | 26.1.58 |
| 2581 | Perennial aqueduct | A-26-3 | 26.1.54 |
| 2582 | Perennial braided stream | A-26-3 | 26.1.50 |
| 2583 | Perennial channel | A-26-4 | 26.1.62 |
| 2584 | Perennial ditch | A-26-3 | 26.1.52 |
| 2585 | Perennial flume | A-26-3 | 26.1.56 |
| 2586 | Perennial open water channel | A-26-4 | 26.1.62 |
| 2587 | Perennial penstock | A-26-3 | 26.1.58 |
| 2588 | Perennial siphon | A-26-4 | 26.1.60 |
| 2589 | Perennial stream | A-26-3 | 26.1.47 |
| 2590 | Periglacial features | A-14-1 | Sec. 14 |
| 2591 | Periglacial patterned ground | A-14-1 | 14.2 |
| 2592 | Periglacial patterns (Series 500) | Plate B | n/a |
| 2593 | Permanent snowfield—Showing trend | A-26-1 | 26.1.5 |
| 2594 | Permian age symbol | A-38-2 | 38.32 |
| 2595 | Phanerozoic age symbol | A-38-2 | 38.33 |
| 2596 | Phosphatic rock lithologic pattern | Plate B | 666 |
| 2597 | Pingo | A-14-1 | 14.1 |
| 2598 | Pipeline | A-28-1 | 28.20 |
| 2599 | Pits | A-19-3 | Sec. 19.3 |
| 2600 | Placer pit | A-19-3 | 19.3.12 |
| 2601 | Placer pit—Abandoned | A-19-3 | 19.3.12 |

| | | Page | Ref. No. |
|------|---|---------|-----------|
| 2602 | | | |
| 2603 | Planetary geology features | A-25-1 | Sec. 25 |
| 2604 | Plant remains | A-10-1 | 10.2.43 |
| 2605 | Plate-tectonic features | A-22-1 | Sec. 22 |
| 2606 | Pleistocene age symbol | A-38-2 | 38.34 |
| 2607 | Pliocene age symbol | A-38-2 | 38.35 |
| 2608 | Plunging anticline—Showing direction of plunge | A-5-1 | 5.1.9 |
| 2609 | Plunging fold axis | A-5-1 | Sec. 5.1 |
| 2610 | Point symbols (guidelines for use) | 11 | n/a |
| 2611 | Points (pts) to inches (in) conversion | 6 | n/a |
| 2612 | Points (pts) to millimeters (mm) conversion | 6 | n/a |
| 2613 | Pollen | A-10-1 | 10.2.44 |
| 2614 | Polygonal patterned ground | A-14-1 | 14.3 |
| 2615 | Pond | A-26-4 | 26.1.65 |
| 2616 | Pond, sewage disposal | A-26-1 | 26.1.11 |
| 2617 | Pond, sewage filtration | A-26-1 | 26.1.11 |
| 2618 | Pond, tailings | A-26-1 | 26.1.12 |
| 2619 | Porphyritic rock lithologic patterns | Plate B | 729-30 |
| 2620 | Portal | A-19-3 | 19.3.4 |
| 2621 | Portal and open cut | A-19-3 | 19.3.5 |
| 2622 | Possible salt dome | A-23-1 | 23.8 |
| 2623 | Power transmission line | A-28-1 | 28.21 |
| 2624 | pre-Archean (>3,800(?) Ma) age symbol | A-38-2 | 38.36 |
| 2625 | Precambrian age symbol | A-38-2 | 38.37 |
| 2626 | Precinct boundary | A-29-1 | 29.4 |
| 2627 | Precipitation-measurement weather station | A-27-1 | 27.4 |
| 2628 | Preparers of this draft standard | 4 | n/a |
| 2629 | Pressure ridge crest on lava flow | A-18-2 | 18.22 |
| 2630 | Pressure ridge on lava flow | A-18-2 | 18.23 |
| 2631 | Primary route—Class 1, divided by centerline | A-28-1 | 28.2 |
| 2632 | Primary route—Class 1, divided, lanes separated | A-28-1 | 28.3 |
| 2633 | Primary route—Class 1, undivided | A-28-1 | 28.1 |
| 2634 | Primary terrestrial impact crater, type 1 | A-24-1 | 24.1 |
| 2635 | Primary terrestrial impact crater, type 2 | A-24-1 | 24.3 |
| 2636 | Prospect (pit or small open cut) | A-19-3 | 19.3.11 |
| 2637 | Proterozoic age symbol | A-38-2 | 38.38 |
| 2638 | Public-water-supply spring | A-26-7 | 26.5.6 |
| 2639 | Public-water-supply well | A-26-5 | 26.2.6 |
| 2640 | Puerto Rico location map | A-37-2 | Sec. 37.1 |
| 2641 | Pumping station | A-26-2 | 26.1.39 |
| 2642 | Purpose of map (influence on color design) | 12 | n/a |
| 2643 | | | |
| 2644 | Q | | |
| 2645 | | | |
| 2646 | Quadrangle location maps | A-37-1 | Sec. 37 |
| 2647 | Quality-of-water site—Active | A-26-6 | 26.4.2 |
| 2648 | Quality-of-water site—Biological measurement | A-26-6 | 26.4.7 |

| | | Page | Ref. No. |
|------|--|---------|----------|
| 2649 | | | |
| 2650 | Quality-of-water site—Chemical measurement | A-26-6 | 26.4.5 |
| 2651 | Quality-of-water site—Equipped with a monitor | A-26-6 | 26.4.2 |
| 2652 | Quality-of-water site—Inactive | A-26-6 | 26.4.4 |
| 2653 | Quality-of-water site—Sediment measurement | A-26-6 | 26.4.8 |
| 2654 | Quality-of-water site—Temperature measurement | A-26-6 | 26.4.6 |
| 2655 | Quality-of-water site—Type of measurement unspecified | A-26-6 | 26.4.1 |
| 2656 | Quarry | A-19-3 | 19.3.14 |
| 2657 | Quarry—Abandoned | A-19-3 | 19.3.15 |
| 2658 | Quarry filled with water | A-26-2 | 26.1.37 |
| 2659 | Quarry (surface view) | A-19-2 | 19.2.5 |
| 2660 | Quartz lithologic pattern | Plate B | 732 |
| 2661 | Quartzite lithologic pattern | Plate B | 702 |
| 2662 | Quaternary age symbol | A-38-2 | 38.39 |
| 2663 | | | |
| 2664 | R | | |
| 2665 | | | |
| 2666 | Radio-equipped gaging station | A-26-6 | 26.3.6 |
| 2667 | Radio-equipped weather station | A-27-1 | 27.12 |
| 2668 | Radiolaria | A-10-1 | 10.2.45 |
| 2669 | Railroad (more than one track)—Showing number of tracks | A-28-1 | 28.18 |
| 2670 | Railroad (one track) | A-28-1 | 28.16 |
| 2671 | Railroad (one track)—Showing name | A-28-1 | 28.17 |
| 2672 | Railroad overpass or bridge | A-28-1 | 28.19 |
| 2673 | Raise | A-19-4 | 19.4.5 |
| 2674 | Raise extending through level | A-19-4 | 19.4.6 |
| 2675 | Raise head | A-19-4 | 19.4.4 |
| 2676 | Rapids on double-line drainage | A-26-2 | 26.1.34 |
| 2677 | Rapids on single-line drainage | A-26-2 | 26.1.33 |
| 2678 | Recent volcano on small-scale maps | A-18-3 | 18.45 |
| 2679 | Recorder-equipped weather station | A-27-1 | 27.11 |
| 2680 | Red (color name) | 8 | n/a |
| 2681 | Reef | A-26-4 | 26.1.66 |
| 2682 | References | 16 | n/a |
| 2683 | Refuse | A-19-2 | 19.2.4 |
| 2684 | Related standards | 1 | n/a |
| 2685 | Relation to previous U.S. Geological Survey standards | 3 | n/a |
| 2686 | Reservoir, covered | A-26-1 | 26.1.4 |
| 2687 | Reservoir, large, dammed | A-26-1 | 26.1.2 |
| 2688 | Reservoir, small | A-26-1 | 26.1.3 |
| 2689 | Retreatal position of stagnant ice margin—Approximately located | A-13-2 | 13.21 |
| 2690 | Retreatal position of stagnant ice margin—Approximately located, queried | A-13-2 | 13.22 |
| 2691 | Retreatal position of stagnant ice margin—Certain | A-13-2 | 13.20 |
| 2692 | Retreatal position of stagnant ice margin—Concealed | A-13-2 | 13.25 |
| 2693 | Retreatal position of stagnant ice margin—Concealed, queried | A-13-2 | 13.26 |
| 2694 | Retreatal position of stagnant ice margin—Inferred | A-13-2 | 13.23 |
| 2695 | Retreatal position of stagnant ice margin—Inferred, queried | A-13-2 | 13.24 |

| | | Page | Ref. No. |
|------|---|---------|-----------|
| 2696 | | | |
| 2697 | Retreatal position of stagnant ice margin—Showing name of depositional unit | A-13-2 | 13.27 |
| 2698 | Reverse fault on small-scale maps—R on upthrown block | A-2-1 | 2.1.16 |
| 2699 | Reverse faults | A-2-1 | Sec. 2.1 |
| 2700 | RGB color | 8 | n/a |
| 2701 | Rhode Island location map | A-37-2 | Sec. 37.1 |
| 2702 | Rice field | A-26-1 | 26.1.15 |
| 2703 | Ridge crest, type 1, planetary | A-25-2 | 25.29 |
| 2704 | Ridge crest, type 1, planetary—Arrowhead shows abrupt termination of ridge | A-25-2 | 25.31 |
| 2705 | Ridge crest, type 2, planetary | A-25-2 | 25.30 |
| 2706 | Ridge, mid-oceanic, with rift—Approximately located | A-22-1 | 22.2 |
| 2707 | Ridge, mid-oceanic, with rift—Approximately located, queried | A-22-1 | 22.3 |
| 2708 | Ridge, mid-oceanic, with rift—Certain | A-22-1 | 22.1 |
| 2709 | Ridge, mid-oceanic, without rift—Approximately located | A-22-1 | 22.5 |
| 2710 | Ridge, mid-oceanic, without rift—Approximately located, queried | A-22-1 | 22.6 |
| 2711 | Ridge, mid-oceanic, without rift—Certain | A-22-1 | 22.4 |
| 2712 | Ridges on moraine | A-13-2 | 13.32 |
| 2713 | Rift within active mid-oceanic ridge—Approximately located | A-22-1 | 22.2 |
| 2714 | Rift within active mid-oceanic ridge—Approximately located, queried | A-22-1 | 22.3 |
| 2715 | Rift within active mid-oceanic ridge—Certain | A-22-1 | 22.1 |
| 2716 | Right bank | A-26-4 | 26.1.70 |
| 2717 | Right-lateral strike-slip faults | A-2-2 | Sec. 2.3 |
| 2718 | Rim crest, formed by shock or sand blowouts—Approximately located | A-21-1 | 21.11 |
| 2719 | Rim crest, formed by shock or sand blowouts—Approximately located, queried | A-21-1 | 21.12 |
| 2720 | Rim crest, formed by shock or sand blowouts—Certain | A-21-1 | 21.10 |
| 2721 | Rim crest, formed by shock or sand blowouts—Concealed | A-21-1 | 21.13 |
| 2722 | Rim crest, formed by shock or sand blowouts—Concealed, queried | A-21-1 | 21.14 |
| 2723 | Rim of volcanic crater—Approximately located | A-18-1 | 18.2 |
| 2724 | Rim of volcanic crater—Approximately located, queried | A-18-1 | 18.3 |
| 2725 | Rim of volcanic crater—Certain | A-18-1 | 18.1 |
| 2726 | Rim of volcanic crater—Concealed | A-18-1 | 18.4 |
| 2727 | Rim of volcanic crater—Concealed, queried | A-18-1 | 18.5 |
| 2728 | Rim of volcanic crater—Showing low point of crater (dot) | A-18-1 | 18.6 |
| 2729 | Ripple-bedded sand lithologic pattern | Plate B | 611 |
| 2730 | Ripple-bedded sandstone and shale, interbedded, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 671 |
| 2731 | Ripple-bedded sandstone lithologic pattern | Plate B | 611 |
| 2732 | Ripple-bedded shale and sandstone, interbedded, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 671 |
| 2733 | Ripple-bedded subgraywacke lithologic pattern | Plate B | 656 |
| 2734 | Riser | A-26-2 | 26.1.30 |
| 2735 | River mile | A-26-4 | 26.1.77 |
| 2736 | Road bridge | A-28-1 | 28.13 |
| 2737 | Road—Class 3 | A-28-1 | 28.5 |
| 2738 | Road—Class 4 | A-28-1 | 28.6 |
| 2739 | Road in a ford | A-28-1 | 28.14 |
| 2740 | Road in tunnel | A-28-1 | 28.12 |
| 2741 | Road overpass | A-28-1 | 28.13 |
| 2742 | Road submerged | A-28-1 | 28.14 |

| | | Page | Ref. No. |
|------|---|---------|----------|
| 2743 | | | |
| 2744 | Rock | A-26-3 | 26.1.45 |
| 2745 | Roof elevation | A-19-4 | 19.4.9 |
| 2746 | Rootless vent area on lava flow | A-18-2 | 18.41 |
| 2747 | Roots | A-10-1 | 10.2.46 |
| 2748 | Rostroconchs | A-10-1 | 10.2.47 |
| 2749 | Rotational block slip surface—Approximately located | A-17-1 | 17.5 |
| 2750 | Rotational block slip surface—Certain | A-17-1 | 17.4 |
| 2751 | Rotational block slip surface—Concealed | A-17-1 | 17.7 |
| 2752 | Rotational block slip surface—Inferred | A-17-1 | 17.6 |
| 2753 | Rubble (section view) | A-19-5 | 19.4.22 |
| 2754 | Rudists | A-10-1 | 10.2.48 |
| 2755 | | | |
| 2756 | S | | |
| 2757 | | | |
| 2758 | Saccharoidal dolomite, irregular (burrow?) fillings, in limestone, lithologic | | |
| 2759 | pattern | Plate B | 631 |
| 2760 | Sag pond on landslide | A-17-1 | 17.15 |
| 2761 | Salt | A-26-4 | 26.1.74 |
| 2762 | Salt diapirs | A-23-1 | 23.9 |
| 2763 | Salt dome | A-23-1 | 23.7 |
| 2764 | Salt dome, possible | A-23-1 | 23.8 |
| 2765 | Salt evaporator | A-26-1 | 26.1.6 |
| 2766 | Salt lithologic pattern | Plate B | 668 |
| 2767 | Salt-water disposal well | A-19-7 | 19.5.39 |
| 2768 | Sand, bedded, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 608 |
| 2769 | Sand, crossbedded, lithologic patterns | Plate B | 609-10 |
| 2770 | Sand flat | A-26-1 | 26.1.17 |
| 2771 | Sand in open water, type 1 | A-26-4 | 26.1.67 |
| 2772 | Sand in open water, type 2 | A-26-4 | 26.1.68 |
| 2773 | Sand, massive, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 607 |
| 2774 | Sand pit | A-19-3 | 19.3.12 |
| 2775 | Sand pit—Abandoned | A-19-3 | 19.3.12 |
| 2776 | Sand, ripple-bedded, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 611 |
| 2777 | Sandstone and shale, interbedded, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 670 |
| 2778 | Sandstone and shale, ripple-bedded, interbedded, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 671 |
| 2779 | Sandstone and siltstone, interbedded, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 669 |
| 2780 | Sandstone, argillaceous, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 612 |
| 2781 | Sandstone, bedded, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 608 |
| 2782 | Sandstone, calcareous, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 613 |
| 2783 | Sandstone, crossbedded, lithologic patterns | Plate B | 609-10 |
| 2784 | Sandstone, dolomitic, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 614 |
| 2785 | Sandstone lithologic pattern | Plate B | 608 |
| 2786 | Sandstone, massive, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 607 |
| 2787 | Sandstone, ripple-bedded, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 611 |
| 2788 | Sandstone, shaly, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 612 |
| 2789 | Sandy and cherty crossbedded clastic limestone lithologic pattern | Plate B | 634 |

| | | Page | Ref. No. |
|------|---|---------|----------|
| 2790 | | | |
| 2791 | Sandy dolomite lithologic pattern | Plate B | 645 |
| 2792 | Sandy limestone lithologic pattern | Plate B | 636 |
| 2793 | Sandy shale lithologic pattern | Plate B | 619 |
| 2794 | Scales | A-35-1 | Sec. 35 |
| 2795 | Scarp base, planetary | A-25-2 | 25.32 |
| 2796 | Scarp, fault—Approximately located | A-21-2 | 21.26 |
| 2797 | Scarp, fault—Approximately located, queried | A-21-2 | 21.27 |
| 2798 | Scarp, fault—Certain | A-21-2 | 21.25 |
| 2799 | Scarp, fault—Concealed | A-21-2 | 21.30 |
| 2800 | Scarp, fault—Concealed, queried | A-21-2 | 21.31 |
| 2801 | Scarp, fault—Inferred | A-21-2 | 21.28 |
| 2802 | Scarp, fault—Inferred, queried | A-21-2 | 21.29 |
| 2803 | Scarp, landslide—Approximately located | A-17-1 | 17.9 |
| 2804 | Scarp, landslide—Approximately located, queried | A-17-1 | 17.10 |
| 2805 | Scarp, landslide—Certain | A-17-1 | 17.8 |
| 2806 | Scarp, landslide—Concealed | A-17-1 | 17.11 |
| 2807 | Scarp, landslide—Concealed, queried | A-17-1 | 17.12 |
| 2808 | Scarp on dune crest | A-16-1 | 16.2 |
| 2809 | Scarp top, planetary | A-25-2 | 25.37 |
| 2810 | Schist and gneiss lithologic pattern | Plate B | 707 |
| 2811 | Schist, contorted, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 706 |
| 2812 | Schist lithologic pattern | Plate B | 705 |
| 2813 | Schistose granite lithologic pattern | Plate B | 704 |
| 2814 | Scope (of draft standard) | 1 | n/a |
| 2815 | Sea coastline | A-26-1 | 26.1.18 |
| 2816 | Seamount, nonvolcanic origin | A-22-3 | 22.48 |
| 2817 | Seamount, nonvolcanic origin (shown as point symbol when too small to outline | | |
| 2818 | at map scale) | A-22-3 | 22.50 |
| 2819 | Seamount, volcanic origin | A-22-3 | 22.49 |
| 2820 | Seamount, volcanic origin (shown as point symbol when too small to outline at | | |
| 2821 | map scale) | A-22-3 | 22.51 |
| 2822 | Secondary crater field, planetary | A-25-3 | 25.59 |
| 2823 | Secondary route—Class 2, divided, lanes separated | A-28-1 | 28.4 |
| 2824 | Secondary terrestrial impact crater, type 1—Formed by debris thrown from | | |
| 2825 | primary crater | A-24-1 | 24.2 |
| 2826 | Secondary terrestrial impact crater, type 2—Formed by debris thrown from | | |
| 2827 | primary crater | A-24-1 | 24.4 |
| 2828 | Section line—Certain. Showing number | A-31-1 | 31.3 |
| 2829 | Section line—Location uncertain | A-31-1 | 31.4 |
| 2830 | Section number | A-31-1 | 31.3 |
| 2831 | Sediment measurement quality-of-water site | A-26-6 | 26.4.8 |
| 2832 | Sediment transport direction—Determined from crossbeds | A-12-1 | 12.4 |
| 2833 | Sediment transport direction—Determined from dune bedding in horizontal | | |
| 2834 | section | A-16-1 | 16.8 |
| 2835 | Sediment transport direction—Determined from dune forms | A-16-1 | 16.7 |
| 2836 | Sediment transport direction—Determined from eolian crossbedding in vertical | | |
| 2837 | or near-vertical section | A-16-1 | 16.9 |

| | | Page | Ref. No. |
|------|---|---------|-----------|
| 2838 | | | |
| 2839 | Sediment transport direction—Determined from flute casts | A-12-1 | 12.5 |
| 2840 | Sediment transport direction—Determined from imbrication | A-12-1 | 12.3 |
| 2841 | Sedimentary lithology patterns (Series 600) | Plate B | n/a |
| 2842 | Sedimentary patterns (Series 200) | Plate B | n/a |
| 2843 | Sediments, fore-arc | A-22-1 | 22.12 |
| 2844 | Serpentinite lithologic pattern | Plate B | 710 |
| 2845 | Sewage disposal pond | A-26-1 | 26.1.11 |
| 2846 | Sewage filtration pond | A-26-1 | 26.1.11 |
| 2847 | Shaft and tunnel—Near line of section (projected to section) | A-19-5 | 19.4.20 |
| 2848 | Shafts | A-19-3 | Sec. 19.3 |
| 2849 | Shale and limestone, interbedded (limestone dominant), lithologic pattern | Plate B | 679 |
| 2850 | Shale and limestone, interbedded, lithologic patterns | Plate B | 677-78 |
| 2851 | Shale and limestone, interbedded (shale dominant), lithologic patterns | Plate B | 673-74 |
| 2852 | Shale and sandstone, interbedded, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 670 |
| 2853 | Shale and sandstone, interbedded, ripple-bedded, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 671 |
| 2854 | Shale and sandstone, ripple-bedded, interbedded, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 671 |
| 2855 | Shale and silty limestone, interbedded, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 676 |
| 2856 | Shale and silty limestone, interbedded (shale dominant), lithologic pattern | Plate B | 672 |
| 2857 | Shale, calcareous, and limestone, interbedded, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 680 |
| 2858 | Shale, calcareous, and limestone, interbedded (shale dominant), lithologic | | |
| 2859 | pattern | Plate B | 675 |
| 2860 | Shale, calcareous, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 623 |
| 2861 | Shale, carbonaceous, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 624 |
| 2862 | Shale, cherty, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 621 |
| 2863 | Shale, clay, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 620 |
| 2864 | Shale diapirs | A-23-1 | 23.9 |
| 2865 | Shale, dolomitic, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 622 |
| 2866 | Shale, oil, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 625 |
| 2867 | Shale, sandy, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 619 |
| 2868 | Shale, silty, lithologic patterns | Plate B | 616, 619 |
| 2869 | Shallow or linear depression, valley, or channel, planetary | A-25-3 | 25.43 |
| 2870 | Shaly dolomite lithologic pattern | Plate B | 647 |
| 2871 | Shaly limestone lithologic pattern | Plate B | 638 |
| 2872 | Shaly sandstone lithologic pattern | Plate B | 612 |
| 2873 | Sharp groove, planetary | A-25-2 | 25.35 |
| 2874 | Shear zone | A-2-1 | 2.1.17 |
| 2875 | Shoal | A-26-1 | 26.1.19 |
| 2876 | Shoreline | A-26-2 | 26.1.21 |
| 2877 | Shoreline cliff—Approximately located | A-15-1 | 15.12 |
| 2878 | Shoreline cliff—Approximately located, queried | A-15-1 | 15.13 |
| 2879 | Shoreline cliff—Certain | A-15-1 | 15.11 |
| 2880 | Show of gas | A-19-7 | 19.5.23 |
| 2881 | Show of oil | A-19-6 | 19.5.16 |
| 2882 | Show of oil and gas | A-19-7 | 19.5.30 |
| 2883 | Shut-in gas well | A-19-7 | 19.5.25 |
| 2884 | Shut-in oil and gas well | A-19-7 | 19.5.32 |

| | | Page | Ref. No. |
|------|--|---------|----------|
| 2885 | | | |
| 2886 | Shut-in oil well | A-19-6 | 19.5.18 |
| 2887 | Siderite lithologic pattern | Plate B | 665 |
| 2888 | Silicoflagellates and (or) ebridrians | A-10-1 | 10.2.49 |
| 2889 | Sill elevation | A-19-4 | 19.4.10 |
| 2890 | Silt lithologic pattern | Plate B | 616 |
| 2891 | Siltstone and sandstone, interbedded, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 669 |
| 2892 | Siltstone, calcareous, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 617 |
| 2893 | Siltstone, dolomitic, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 618 |
| 2894 | Siltstone lithologic pattern | Plate B | 616 |
| 2895 | Silty dolomite lithologic pattern | Plate B | 646 |
| 2896 | Silty limestone and shale, interbedded, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 676 |
| 2897 | Silty limestone and shale, interbedded (shale dominant), lithologic pattern | Plate B | 672 |
| 2898 | Silty limestone lithologic pattern | Plate B | 637 |
| 2899 | Silty shale lithologic patterns | Plate B | 616, 619 |
| 2900 | Silurian age symbol | A-38-2 | 38.40 |
| 2901 | Sinkhole, formed by shock—Approximately located | A-21-1 | 21.16 |
| 2902 | Sinkhole, formed by shock—Approximately located, queried | A-21-1 | 21.17 |
| 2903 | Sinkhole, formed by shock—Certain | A-21-1 | 21.15 |
| 2904 | Sinkhole, formed by shock—Concealed | A-21-1 | 21.18 |
| 2905 | Sinkhole, formed by shock—Concealed, queried | A-21-1 | 21.19 |
| 2906 | Sinkhole or collapse structure | A-23-1 | 23.4 |
| 2907 | Siphon—Intermittent | A-26-4 | 26.1.61 |
| 2908 | Siphon—Perennial | A-26-4 | 26.1.60 |
| 2909 | Size of map areas (influence on color design) | 13 | n/a |
| 2910 | Slate lithologic pattern | Plate B | 703 |
| 2911 | Slickenside on a fault or shear surface—Showing bearing and direction of | | |
| 2912 | plunge of offset | A-9-1 | 9.20 |
| 2913 | Slide material, planetary—Arrow indicates direction of movement | A-25-4 | 25.68 |
| 2914 | Slip lineation, groove, or striations on foliation surface (A lineation)—Showing | | |
| 2915 | bearing and direction of plunge | A-9-1 | 9.6 |
| 2916 | Slip lineation on a fault or shear surface—Showing bearing and direction of | | |
| 2917 | plunge of offset | A-9-1 | 9.20 |
| 2918 | Slip surface of landslide, rotational or Toreva block, block-slump fault, or | | |
| 2919 | land-slip fault—Approximately located | A-17-1 | 17.5 |
| 2920 | Slip surface of landslide, rotational or Toreva block, block-slump fault, or | | |
| 2921 | land-slip fault—Certain | A-17-1 | 17.4 |
| 2922 | Slip surface of landslide, rotational or Toreva block, block-slump fault, or | | |
| 2923 | land-slip fault—Concealed | A-17-1 | 17.7 |
| 2924 | Slip surface of landslide, rotational or Toreva block, block-slump fault, or | | |
| 2925 | land-slip fault—Inferred | A-17-1 | 17.6 |
| 2926 | Sluice gate | A-26-3 | 26.1.42 |
| 2927 | Slump material, planetary—Arrow indicates direction of movement | A-25-4 | 25.68 |
| 2928 | Small cone on surface of lava flow | A-18-3 | 18.44 |
| 2929 | Small reservoir | A-26-1 | 26.1.3 |
| 2930 | Snow-survey course | A-27-1 | 27.3 |
| 2931 | Soapstone lithologic pattern | Plate B | 710 |
| 2932 | Soda evaporator | A-26-1 | 26.1.20 |

| | | Page | Ref. No. |
|------|---|--------|-----------|
| 2933 | | | |
| 2934 | Solar-radiation measurement weather station | A-27-1 | 27.8 |
| 2935 | Solifluction lobes | A-14-1 | 14.7 |
| 2936 | Sorted circles | A-14-1 | 14.4 |
| 2937 | South Carolina location map | A-37-2 | Sec. 37.1 |
| 2938 | South Dakota location map | A-37-2 | Sec. 37.1 |
| 2939 | Spatter cone on surface of lava flow | A-18-3 | 18.44 |
| 2940 | Spicules | A-10-1 | 10.2.50 |
| 2941 | Spillway | A-26-3 | 26.1.43 |
| 2942 | Spit—Approximately located | A-15-1 | 15.9 |
| 2943 | Spit—Approximately located, queried | A-15-1 | 15.10 |
| 2944 | Spit—Certain | A-15-1 | 15.8 |
| 2945 | Spoil area in open water | A-26-4 | 26.1.69 |
| 2946 | Sponges | A-10-1 | 10.2.51 |
| 2947 | Spores | A-10-1 | 10.2.44 |
| 2948 | Sporomorphs | A-10-1 | 10.2.52 |
| 2949 | Spot color specifications and their equivalent colors in other color models | 9 | n/a |
| 2950 | Spreading axis, active, with rift—Approximately located | A-22-1 | 22.2 |
| 2951 | Spreading axis, active, with rift—Approximately located, queried | A-22-1 | 22.3 |
| 2952 | Spreading axis, active, with rift—Certain | A-22-1 | 22.1 |
| 2953 | Spreading axis, active, without rift—Approximately located | A-22-1 | 22.5 |
| 2954 | Spreading axis, active, without rift—Approximately located, queried | A-22-1 | 22.6 |
| 2955 | Spreading axis, active, without rift—Certain | A-22-1 | 22.4 |
| 2956 | Spreading axis, ancient—Certain | A-22-1 | 22.7 |
| 2957 | Spreading axis, ancient—Uncertain | A-22-1 | 22.8 |
| 2958 | Spring—Alkali | A-26-4 | 26.1.75 |
| 2959 | Spring, as shown on general-purpose or smaller scale maps | A-26-2 | 26.1.27 |
| 2960 | Spring—Extinct | A-26-7 | 26.5.10 |
| 2961 | Spring—Mineral | A-26-7 | 26.5.9 |
| 2962 | Spring—Sulfur | A-26-4 | 26.1.75 |
| 2963 | Spring—Thermal | A-26-7 | 26.5.8 |
| 2964 | Spring—Type of use unspecified | A-26-7 | 26.5.1 |
| 2965 | Spring—Unused | A-26-7 | 26.5.7 |
| 2966 | Spring—Used for collection of water-quality data | A-26-7 | 26.5.2 |
| 2967 | Spring—Used for domestic-water supply | A-26-7 | 26.5.3 |
| 2968 | Spring—Used for industrial-water supply | A-26-7 | 26.5.5 |
| 2969 | Spring—Used for irrigation-water supply | A-26-7 | 26.5.4 |
| 2970 | Spring—Used for public-water supply | A-26-7 | 26.5.6 |
| 2971 | Stage-measurement station | A-26-6 | 26.3.9 |
| 2972 | Standards development procedures | 1 | n/a |
| 2973 | State boundary | A-29-1 | 29.2 |
| 2974 | State Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) code | A-29-1 | 29.11 |
| 2975 | State route number | A-28-1 | 28.11 |
| 2976 | Steam vent | A-18-3 | 18.55 |
| 2977 | Steeply inclined (between 60° and 90°) bedding, determined from aerial | | |
| 2978 | photographs—Showing approximate strike and direction of dip | A-6-2 | 6.24 |
| 2979 | Stock-water-supply well | A-26-5 | 26.2.3 |

| | | Page | Ref. No. |
|------|--|---------|-----------|
| 2980 | | | |
| 2981 | Stone stripe, coarse debris | A-14-1 | 14.6 |
| 2982 | Stone stripe, fine debris | A-14-1 | 14.5 |
| 2983 | Stoped area (section view)—Certain | A-19-5 | 19.4.23 |
| 2984 | Stoped area (section view)—Inferred | A-19-5 | 19.4.24 |
| 2985 | StratagemAge font | A-38-1 | Sec. 38 |
| 2986 | Stratigraphic-age map-unit colors | A-33-1 | Sec. 33.1 |
| 2987 | Stream—Intermittent, type 1 | A-26-3 | 26.1.48 |
| 2988 | Stream—Intermittent, type 2 | A-26-3 | 26.1.49 |
| 2989 | Stream—Perennial | A-26-3 | 26.1.47 |
| 2990 | Street bridge | A-28-1 | 28.13 |
| 2991 | Street—Class 3 | A-28-1 | 28.5 |
| 2992 | Street—Class 4 | A-28-1 | 28.6 |
| 2993 | Street in a ford | A-28-1 | 28.14 |
| 2994 | Street in tunnel | A-28-1 | 28.12 |
| 2995 | Street overpass | A-28-1 | 28.13 |
| 2996 | Street submerged | A-28-1 | 28.14 |
| 2997 | Strike-slip fault, left-lateral offset—Approximately located | A-2-2 | 2.3.9 |
| 2998 | Strike-slip fault, left-lateral offset—Approximately located, queried | A-2-2 | 2.3.10 |
| 2999 | Strike-slip fault, left-lateral offset—Certain | A-2-2 | 2.3.8 |
| 3000 | Strike-slip fault, left-lateral offset—Concealed | A-2-2 | 2.3.13 |
| 3001 | Strike-slip fault, left-lateral offset—Concealed, queried | A-2-2 | 2.3.14 |
| 3002 | Strike-slip fault, left-lateral offset—Inferred | A-2-2 | 2.3.11 |
| 3003 | Strike-slip fault, left-lateral offset—Inferred, queried | A-2-2 | 2.3.12 |
| 3004 | Strike-slip fault, right-lateral offset—Approximately located | A-2-2 | 2.3.2 |
| 3005 | Strike-slip fault, right-lateral offset—Approximately located, queried | A-2-2 | 2.3.3 |
| 3006 | Strike-slip fault, right-lateral offset—Certain | A-2-2 | 2.3.1 |
| 3007 | Strike-slip fault, right-lateral offset—Concealed | A-2-2 | 2.3.6 |
| 3008 | Strike-slip fault, right-lateral offset—Concealed, queried | A-2-2 | 2.3.7 |
| 3009 | Strike-slip fault, right-lateral offset—Inferred | A-2-2 | 2.3.4 |
| 3010 | Strike-slip fault, right-lateral offset—Inferred, queried | A-2-2 | 2.3.5 |
| 3011 | Strip mine | A-19-2 | 19.2.2 |
| 3012 | Stromatolites | A-10-1 | 10.2.53 |
| 3013 | Stromatoporoids | A-10-1 | 10.2.54 |
| 3014 | Structure contours | A-11-1 | Sec. 11.2 |
| 3015 | Subduction zone—Approximately located | A-22-1 | 22.10 |
| 3016 | Subduction zone—Approximately located, queried | A-22-1 | 22.11 |
| 3017 | Subduction zone—Certain | A-22-1 | 22.9 |
| 3018 | Subduction zone—Showing fore-arc sediments | A-22-1 | 22.12 |
| 3019 | Subdued groove, planetary | A-25-2 | 25.36 |
| 3020 | Subgraywacke, crossbedded, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 655 |
| 3021 | Subgraywacke lithologic pattern | Plate B | 654 |
| 3022 | Subgraywacke, ripple-bedded, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 656 |
| 3023 | Submerged highway | A-28-1 | 28.14 |
| 3024 | Submerged hydrologic feature | A-26-4 | 26.1.72 |
| 3025 | Submerged jetty | A-26-4 | 26.1.72 |
| 3026 | Submerged road | A-28-1 | 28.14 |

| | | Page | Ref. No. |
|------|---|---------|----------|
| 3027 | | | |
| 3028 | Submerged street | A-28-1 | 28.14 |
| 3029 | Subsidence, outer limit—Approximately located | A-21-2 | 21.21 |
| 3030 | Subsidence, outer limit—Approximately located, queried | A-21-2 | 21.22 |
| 3031 | Subsidence, outer limit—Certain | A-21-2 | 21.20 |
| 3032 | Subsidence, outer limit—Concealed | A-21-2 | 21.23 |
| 3033 | Subsidence, outer limit—Concealed, queried | A-21-2 | 21.24 |
| 3034 | Subsurface workings (projected to surface) | A-19-2 | 19.2.6 |
| 3035 | Subvertical faults | A-2-1 | Sec. 2.1 |
| 3036 | Sulfur spring | A-26-4 | 26.1.75 |
| 3037 | Sunken hydrologic feature | A-26-4 | 26.1.72 |
| 3038 | Surface elevation | A-26-4 | 26.1.76 |
| 3039 | Surface trace of deep-seismofocal or subduction zone—Approximately located | A-22-1 | 22.10 |
| 3040 | Surface trace of deep-seismofocal or subduction zone—Approximately located, | | |
| 3041 | queried | A-22-1 | 22.11 |
| 3042 | Surface trace of deep-seismofocal or subduction zone—Certain | A-22-1 | 22.9 |
| 3043 | Surface trace of deep-seismofocal or subduction zone—Showing fore-arc | | |
| 3044 | sediments | A-22-1 | 22.12 |
| 3045 | Surface-water basin boundary | A-26-7 | 26.6.1 |
| 3046 | Surface-water subbasin boundary | A-26-7 | 26.6.2 |
| 3047 | Surficial patterns (Series 100) | Plate B | n/a |
| 3048 | Survey station | A-3-1 | 3.2.4 |
| 3049 | Swamp | A-26-1 | 26.1.13 |
| 3050 | Symbol usage guidelines | 10 | n/a |
| 3051 | Syncline—Approximately located | A-5-4 | 5.3.2 |
| 3052 | Syncline—Approximately located, queried | A-5-4 | 5.3.3 |
| 3053 | Syncline—Certain | A-5-4 | 5.3.1 |
| 3054 | Syncline—Concealed | A-5-4 | 5.3.6 |
| 3055 | Syncline—Concealed, queried | A-5-4 | 5.3.7 |
| 3056 | Syncline—Inferred | A-5-4 | 5.3.4 |
| 3057 | Syncline—Inferred, queried | A-5-4 | 5.3.5 |
| 3058 | Synform, 1st type—Approximately located | A-5-4 | 5.3.9 |
| 3059 | Synform, 1st type—Approximately located, queried | A-5-4 | 5.3.10 |
| 3060 | Synform, 1st type—Certain | A-5-4 | 5.3.8 |
| 3061 | Synform, 1st type—Concealed | A-5-4 | 5.3.13 |
| 3062 | Synform, 1st type—Concealed, queried | A-5-4 | 5.3.14 |
| 3063 | Synform, 1st type—Inferred | A-5-4 | 5.3.11 |
| 3064 | Synform, 1st type—Inferred, queried | A-5-4 | 5.3.12 |
| 3065 | Synform, 2nd type—Approximately located | A-5-4 | 5.3.16 |
| 3066 | Synform, 2nd type—Approximately located, queried | A-5-4 | 5.3.17 |
| 3067 | Synform, 2nd type—Certain | A-5-4 | 5.3.15 |
| 3068 | Synform, 2nd type—Concealed | A-5-4 | 5.3.20 |
| 3069 | Synform, 2nd type—Concealed, queried | A-5-4 | 5.3.21 |
| 3070 | Synform, 2nd type—Inferred | A-5-4 | 5.3.18 |
| 3071 | Synform, 2nd type—Inferred, queried | A-5-4 | 5.3.19 |
| 3072 | | | |
| 3073 | | | |
| 3074 | | | |

| T | | Page | Ref. No. |
|------|---|---------|-----------|
| 3075 | | | |
| 3076 | | | |
| 3077 | Tailings, including tailings pond (surface view) | A-19-2 | 19.2.7 |
| 3078 | Tailings pond | A-26-1 | 26.1.12 |
| 3079 | Talc lithologic pattern | Plate B | 710 |
| 3080 | Technical specifications used in preparation of this standard | 5 | n/a |
| 3081 | Teeth | A-10-1 | 10.2.55 |
| 3082 | Telephone-equipped gaging station | A-26-6 | 26.3.6 |
| 3083 | Telephone-equipped weather station | A-27-1 | 27.12 |
| 3084 | Temperature-measurement quality-of-water site | A-26-6 | 26.4.6 |
| 3085 | Temperature-measurement weather station | A-27-1 | 27.6 |
| 3086 | Tennessee location map | A-37-2 | Sec. 37.1 |
| 3087 | Terrace deposits, planetary | A-25-3 | 25.57 |
| 3088 | Terrestrial impact-crater features | A-24-1 | Sec. 24 |
| 3089 | Terrestrial impact crater with raised rim—Concealed | A-24-1 | 24.17 |
| 3090 | Terrestrial impact crater with raised rim—Concealed, queried | A-24-1 | 24.18 |
| 3091 | Terrestrial impact crater with raised rim—Approximately located | A-24-1 | 24.13 |
| 3092 | Terrestrial impact crater with raised rim—Approximately located, queried | A-24-1 | 24.14 |
| 3093 | Terrestrial impact crater with raised rim—Certain | A-24-1 | 24.12 |
| 3094 | Terrestrial impact crater with raised rim—Inferred | A-24-1 | 24.15 |
| 3095 | Terrestrial impact crater with raised rim—Inferred, queried | A-24-1 | 24.16 |
| 3096 | Terrestrial impact crater without raised rim—Approximately located | A-24-1 | 24.6 |
| 3097 | Terrestrial impact crater without raised rim—Approximately located, queried | A-24-1 | 24.7 |
| 3098 | Terrestrial impact crater without raised rim—Certain | A-24-1 | 24.5 |
| 3099 | Terrestrial impact crater without raised rim—Concealed | A-24-1 | 24.10 |
| 3100 | Terrestrial impact crater without raised rim—Concealed, queried | A-24-1 | 24.11 |
| 3101 | Terrestrial impact crater without raised rim—Inferred | A-24-1 | 24.8 |
| 3102 | Terrestrial impact crater without raised rim—Inferred, queried | A-24-1 | 24.9 |
| 3103 | Terrestrial impact ejecta | A-24-2 | 24.22 |
| 3104 | Terrestrial palimpsest area | A-24-2 | 24.21 |
| 3105 | Tertiary age symbol | A-38-2 | 38.41 |
| 3106 | Test hole for water | A-26-5 | 26.2.15 |
| 3107 | Texas location map | A-37-2 | Sec. 37.1 |
| 3108 | Thermal area | A-18-2 | 18.42 |
| 3109 | Thermal spring | A-26-7 | 26.5.8 |
| 3110 | Thermal spring, type 1 | A-18-3 | 18.52 |
| 3111 | Thermal spring, type 2 | A-18-3 | 18.53 |
| 3112 | Thermokarst depression | A-14-1 | 14.10 |
| 3113 | Thickness of key beds | A-1-2 | Sec. 1.2 |
| 3114 | Thrust fault, 1st generation—Approximately located | A-2-3 | 2.4.2 |
| 3115 | Thrust fault, 1st generation—Approximately located, queried | A-2-3 | 2.4.3 |
| 3116 | Thrust fault, 1st generation—Certain | A-2-3 | 2.4.1 |
| 3117 | Thrust fault, 1st generation—Concealed | A-2-3 | 2.4.6 |
| 3118 | Thrust fault, 1st generation—Concealed, queried | A-2-3 | 2.4.7 |
| 3119 | Thrust fault, 1st generation—Inferred | A-2-3 | 2.4.4 |
| 3120 | Thrust fault, 1st generation—Inferred, queried | A-2-3 | 2.4.5 |
| 3121 | Thrust fault, 2nd generation—Approximately located | A-2-3 | 2.4.9 |

| | | Page | Ref. No. |
|------|---|---------|----------|
| 3122 | | | |
| 3123 | Thrust fault, 2nd generation—Approximately located, queried | A-2-3 | 2.4.10 |
| 3124 | Thrust fault, 2nd generation—Certain | A-2-3 | 2.4.8 |
| 3125 | Thrust fault, 2nd generation—Concealed | A-2-3 | 2.4.13 |
| 3126 | Thrust fault, 2nd generation—Concealed, queried | A-2-3 | 2.4.14 |
| 3127 | Thrust fault, 2nd generation—Inferred | A-2-3 | 2.4.11 |
| 3128 | Thrust fault, 2nd generation—Inferred, queried | A-2-3 | 2.4.12 |
| 3129 | Thrust fault, 3rd generation—Approximately located | A-2-3 | 2.4.16 |
| 3130 | Thrust fault, 3rd generation—Approximately located, queried | A-2-3 | 2.4.17 |
| 3131 | Thrust fault, 3rd generation—Certain | A-2-3 | 2.4.15 |
| 3132 | Thrust fault, 3rd generation—Concealed | A-2-3 | 2.4.20 |
| 3133 | Thrust fault, 3rd generation—Concealed, queried | A-2-3 | 2.4.21 |
| 3134 | Thrust fault, 3rd generation—Inferred | A-2-3 | 2.4.18 |
| 3135 | Thrust fault, 3rd generation—Inferred, queried | A-2-3 | 2.4.19 |
| 3136 | Thrust fault, planetary—Approximately located | A-25-2 | 25.26 |
| 3137 | Thrust fault, planetary—Certain | A-25-2 | 25.25 |
| 3138 | Thrust fault, planetary—Concealed | A-25-2 | 25.28 |
| 3139 | Thrust fault, planetary—Inferred | A-25-2 | 25.27 |
| 3140 | Tidal gate | A-26-3 | 26.1.44 |
| 3141 | Tidal flat | A-26-1 | 26.1.17 |
| 3142 | Tight anticlinal fold | A-5-8 | 5.7.2 |
| 3143 | Tight synclinal fold | A-5-8 | 5.7.4 |
| 3144 | Till lithologic pattern | Plate B | 604 |
| 3145 | Topographic contour—Index | A-30-1 | 30.1 |
| 3146 | Topographic contour—Intermediate | A-30-1 | 30.2 |
| 3147 | Topographic features | A-30-1 | Sec. 30 |
| 3148 | Toreva block slip surface—Approximately located | A-17-1 | 17.5 |
| 3149 | Toreva block slip surface—Certain | A-17-1 | 17.4 |
| 3150 | Toreva block slip surface—Concealed | A-17-1 | 17.7 |
| 3151 | Toreva block slip surface—Inferred | A-17-1 | 17.6 |
| 3152 | Town boundary | A-29-1 | 29.5 |
| 3153 | Township and range line—Certain. Showing township and range numbers | A-31-1 | 31.1 |
| 3154 | Township and range line—Location uncertain | A-31-1 | 31.2 |
| 3155 | Township and range numbers | A-31-1 | 31.1 |
| 3156 | Trace fossils | A-10-1 | 10.2.56 |
| 3157 | Trace of gneiss—Showing dip of foliation and bearing and plunge of mineral | | |
| 3158 | lineation | A-5-8 | 5.7.8 |
| 3159 | Trace of inclined drill hole | A-19-6 | 19.5.10 |
| 3160 | Trace of inclined drill hole—Showing collar altitude (72 m) and total depth | | |
| 3161 | (620 m) | A-19-6 | 19.5.12 |
| 3162 | Trace of inclined drill hole—Showing inclination | A-19-6 | 19.5.11 |
| 3163 | Trace of iron formation—Showing dip. Dashed where inferred | A-5-8 | 5.7.6 |
| 3164 | Trail | A-28-1 | 28.7 |
| 3165 | Trail—Class 5, 4-wheel-drive vehicles | A-28-1 | 28.8 |
| 3166 | Trail—Class 5, other than 4-wheel-drive vehicles | A-28-1 | 28.7 |
| 3167 | Trail, Jeep | A-28-1 | 28.8 |
| 3168 | Transform fault, active, left-lateral offset—Approximately located | A-22-2 | 22.30 |
| 3169 | Transform fault, active, left-lateral offset—Approximately located, queried | A-22-2 | 22.31 |

| | Page | Ref. No. |
|---|---------|-----------|
| 3170 | | |
| 3171 Transform fault, active, left-lateral offset—Certain | A-22-2 | 22.29 |
| 3172 Transform fault, active, normal offset—Approximately located | A-22-2 | 22.33 |
| 3173 Transform fault, active, normal offset—Approximately located, queried | A-22-2 | 22.34 |
| 3174 Transform fault, active, normal offset—Certain | A-22-2 | 22.32 |
| 3175 Transform fault, active, right-lateral offset—Approximately located | A-22-2 | 22.27 |
| 3176 Transform fault, active, right-lateral offset—Approximately located, queried | A-22-2 | 22.28 |
| 3177 Transform fault, active, right-lateral offset—Certain | A-22-2 | 22.26 |
| 3178 Transform fault, active, sense of offset unspecified—Approximately located | A-22-2 | 22.24 |
| 3179 Transform fault, active, sense of offset unspecified—Approximately located, | | |
| 3180 queried | A-22-2 | 22.25 |
| 3181 Transform fault, active, sense of offset unspecified—Certain | A-22-2 | 22.23 |
| 3182 Transform fault, ancient, sense of offset unspecified—Certain | A-22-2 | 22.35 |
| 3183 Transform fault, ancient, sense of offset unspecified—Approximately located | A-22-2 | 22.36 |
| 3184 Transportation features | A-28-1 | Sec. 28 |
| 3185 Trench, deep-sea—Showing margin filled by sedimentation (patterned area) | A-22-2 | 22.40 |
| 3186 Trench (surface view)—Drawn to scale | A-19-3 | 19.3.17 |
| 3187 Trench (surface view)—Generalized trace | A-19-3 | 19.3.16 |
| 3188 Triassic age symbol | A-38-2 | 38.42 |
| 3189 Trilobites | A-10-1 | 10.2.57 |
| 3190 Trough line of fold | A-5-1 | Sec. 5.1 |
| 3191 Trough, planetary | A-25-2 | 25.33 |
| 3192 Tuff and volcanic breccia lithologic pattern | Plate B | 714 |
| 3193 Tuff, crystal, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 712 |
| 3194 Tuff, devitrified, lithologic pattern | Plate B | 713 |
| 3195 Tuffaceous rock lithologic pattern | Plate B | 711 |
| 3196 Tumulus on lava flow | A-18-2 | 18.22 |
| 3197 Tunnel and shaft—Near line of section (projected to section) | A-19-5 | 19.4.20 |
| 3198 Tunnel and workings (section view)—High certainty | A-19-5 | 19.4.17 |
| 3199 Tunnel and workings (section view)—Low certainty | A-19-5 | 19.4.19 |
| 3200 Tunnel and workings (section view)—Medium certainty | A-19-5 | 19.4.18 |
| 3201 Tunnel, crosscut | A-19-4 | 19.4.16 |
| 3202 Tunnel, inaccessible | A-19-3 | 19.3.3 |
| 3203 Tunnel (mine) | A-19-3 | 19.3.2 |
| 3204 Tunnel (road, street, or highway) | A-28-1 | 28.12 |
| 3205 Type size and style (guidelines for map labeling) | 15 | n/a |
| 3206 Type specifications | 7 | n/a |
| 3207 Type styles and sizes (abbreviations) | 8 | n/a |
| 3208 | | |
| 3209 U | | |
| 3210 | | |
| 3211 U.S. route number | A-28-1 | 28.10 |
| 3212 U.S. Virgin Islands location map | A-37-2 | Sec. 37.1 |
| 3213 Underclay lithologic pattern | Plate B | 660 |
| 3214 Underground workings | A-19-4 | Sec. 19.4 |
| 3215 Units for lineweights, lengths, and distances | 5 | n/a |
| 3216 Unused spring | A-26-7 | 26.5.7 |

| | | Page | Ref. No. |
|------|--|---------|-----------|
| 3217 | | | |
| 3218 | Uplift features | A-23-1 | Sec. 23 |
| 3219 | Uplift—Local, intensely disturbed | A-23-1 | 23.6 |
| 3220 | Utah location map | A-37-2 | Sec. 37.1 |
| 3221 | | | |
| 3222 | V | | |
| 3223 | | | |
| 3224 | Vein—Approximately located | A-19-1 | 19.1.2 |
| 3225 | Vein—Approximately located, queried | A-19-1 | 19.1.3 |
| 3226 | Vein—Certain | A-19-1 | 19.1.1 |
| 3227 | Vein—Concealed | A-19-1 | 19.1.4 |
| 3228 | Vein—Concealed, queried | A-19-1 | 19.1.5 |
| 3229 | Vein-matter lithology patterns (Series 700) | Plate B | n/a |
| 3230 | Vein—Showing type of mineral occurrence | A-19-1 | 19.1.6 |
| 3231 | Vein—Showing dip where known | A-19-1 | 19.1.7 |
| 3232 | Veinlets | A-19-1 | 19.1.8 |
| 3233 | Vent area on lava flow | A-18-2 | 18.41 |
| 3234 | Vermont location map | A-37-2 | Sec. 37.1 |
| 3235 | Vertebrates | A-10-1 | 10.2.58 |
| 3236 | Vertical bedding—Showing strike | A-6-1 | 6.5 |
| 3237 | Vertical bedding—Showing strike. Ball shows top direction of beds where | | |
| 3238 | known from local features | A-6-1 | 6.6 |
| 3239 | Vertical faults | A-2-1 | Sec. 2.1 |
| 3240 | Vertical lineation | A-9-1 | 9.4 |
| 3241 | Vertical mine shaft | A-19-3 | 19.3.6 |
| 3242 | Vertical mine shaft—Abandoned or inaccessible | A-19-3 | 19.3.8 |
| 3243 | Vertical minor fold axis | A-5-7 | 5.6.14 |
| 3244 | Vertical or near-vertical bedding, determined from aerial photographs—Showing | | |
| 3245 | approximate strike | A-6-2 | 6.25 |
| 3246 | Vertical or near-vertical bedding in crossbedded rocks—Showing approximate | | |
| 3247 | strike | A-6-1 | 6.17 |
| 3248 | Vertical or near-vertical bedding—Showing approximate strike | A-6-2 | 6.20 |
| 3249 | Vertical or near-vertical cleavage, type 1—Showing strike | A-7-1 | 7.3 |
| 3250 | Vertical or near-vertical cleavage, type 2—Showing strike | A-7-1 | 7.6 |
| 3251 | Vertical or near-vertical compaction foliation in ash-flow tuff—Showing strike | A-8-1 | 8.1.18 |
| 3252 | Vertical or near-vertical crenulated or warped bedding—Showing approximate | | |
| 3253 | strike | A-6-1 | 6.12 |
| 3254 | Vertical or near-vertical crinkled or deformed compaction foliation in ash-flow | | |
| 3255 | tuff—Showing approximate strike | A-8-1 | 8.1.20 |
| 3256 | Vertical or near-vertical crinkled or deformed cumulate foliation in layered | | |
| 3257 | igneous rock—Showing approximate strike | A-8-1 | 8.1.15 |
| 3258 | Vertical or near-vertical crinkled or deformed flow foliation or layering in | | |
| 3259 | igneous rock—Showing approximate strike | A-8-1 | 8.1.6 |
| 3260 | Vertical or near-vertical crinkled or deformed foliation in metamorphic rock— | | |
| 3261 | Showing approximate strike | A-8-2 | 8.2.5 |
| 3262 | Vertical or near-vertical cumulate foliation parallel to layering in igneous rock— | | |
| 3263 | Showing strike | A-8-1 | 8.1.10 |
| 3264 | | | |
| 3265 | | | |

| | | Page | Ref. No. |
|------|--|---------|-----------|
| 3266 | | | |
| 3267 | Vertical or near-vertical cumulate foliation parallel to layering in igneous rock— | | |
| 3268 | Showing strike. Ball shows top direction of layers where known from | | |
| 3269 | local features | A-8-1 | 8.1.11 |
| 3270 | Vertical or near-vertical flow foliation or layering in igneous rock—Showing | | |
| 3271 | strike | A-8-1 | 8.1.4 |
| 3272 | Vertical or near-vertical foliation in metamorphic rock—Showing strike | A-8-2 | 8.2.3 |
| 3273 | Vertical or near-vertical foliation parallel to bedding in metamorphic rock— | | |
| 3274 | Showing strike | A-8-2 | 8.2.9 |
| 3275 | Vertical or near-vertical foliation parallel to bedding in metamorphic rock— | | |
| 3276 | Showing strike. Ball shows top direction of layers where known from | | |
| 3277 | local features | A-8-2 | 8.2.10 |
| 3278 | Vertical or near-vertical graded bedding—Showing strike | A-6-1 | 6.14 |
| 3279 | Vertical or near-vertical joint, type 1—Showing strike | A-4-1 | 4.7 |
| 3280 | Vertical or near-vertical joint, type 2—Showing strike | A-4-1 | 4.10 |
| 3281 | Village boundary | A-29-1 | 29.5 |
| 3282 | Violet (color name) | 8 | n/a |
| 3283 | Virgin Islands (U.S.) location map | A-37-2 | Sec. 37.1 |
| 3284 | Virginia location map | A-37-2 | Sec. 37.1 |
| 3285 | Vitrophyre lithologic pattern | Plate B | 731 |
| 3286 | Volcanic breccia and tuff lithologic pattern | Plate B | 714 |
| 3287 | Volcanic breccia lithologic pattern | Plate B | 715 |
| 3288 | Volcanic colors | A-33-1 | Sec. 33.2 |
| 3289 | Volcanic crater—Approximately located | A-18-1 | 18.2 |
| 3290 | Volcanic crater—Approximately located, queried | A-18-1 | 18.3 |
| 3291 | Volcanic crater—Certain | A-18-1 | 18.1 |
| 3292 | Volcanic crater—Concealed | A-18-1 | 18.4 |
| 3293 | Volcanic crater—Concealed, queried | A-18-1 | 18.5 |
| 3294 | Volcanic crater—Showing low point of crater (dot) | A-18-1 | 18.6 |
| 3295 | Volcanic edifice—Approximately located | A-22-3 | 22.45 |
| 3296 | Volcanic edifice—Approximately located, queried | A-22-3 | 22.46 |
| 3297 | Volcanic edifice—Certain | A-22-3 | 22.44 |
| 3298 | Volcanic fissure—Certain | A-18-2 | 18.25 |
| 3299 | Volcanic fissure—Concealed | A-18-2 | 18.26 |
| 3300 | Volcanic fissure—Hachures show location where lava was emitted | A-18-2 | 18.27 |
| 3301 | Volcanic ridge—Approximately located | A-22-3 | 22.45 |
| 3302 | Volcanic ridge—Approximately located, queried | A-22-3 | 22.46 |
| 3303 | Volcanic ridge—Certain | A-22-3 | 22.44 |
| 3304 | Volcano, active, on small-scale maps | A-18-3 | 18.46 |
| 3305 | Volcano, inactive, on small-scale maps | A-18-3 | 18.47 |
| 3306 | Volcano, planetary, with summit crater | A-25-4 | 25.64 |
| 3307 | Volcano, planetary, without summit crater—Queried if origin is conjectural | A-25-4 | 25.63 |
| 3308 | Volcano, recent, on small-scale maps | A-18-3 | 18.45 |
| 3309 | | | |
| 3310 | W | | |
| 3311 | | | |
| 3312 | Wash | A-26-4 | 26.1.64 |
| 3313 | Washington, D.C. location map | A-37-1 | Sec. 37.1 |

| | | Page | Ref. No. |
|------|---|--------|-----------|
| 3314 | | | |
| 3315 | Washington (state) location map | A-37-2 | Sec. 37.1 |
| 3316 | Waste-injection well | A-26-5 | 26.2.10 |
| 3317 | Water gaging stations | A-26-6 | Sec. 26.3 |
| 3318 | Water-injection well | A-19-7 | 19.5.40 |
| 3319 | Water-input well | A-19-7 | 19.5.41 |
| 3320 | Water intake | A-26-2 | 26.1.40 |
| 3321 | Water-quality site—Active | A-26-6 | 26.4.2 |
| 3322 | Water-quality site—Biological measurement | A-26-6 | 26.4.7 |
| 3323 | Water-quality site—Chemical measurement | A-26-6 | 26.4.5 |
| 3324 | Water-quality site—Equipped with a monitor | A-26-6 | 26.4.2 |
| 3325 | Water-quality site—Inactive | A-26-6 | 26.4.4 |
| 3326 | Water-quality site—Sediment measurement | A-26-6 | 26.4.8 |
| 3327 | Water-quality site—Temperature measurement | A-26-6 | 26.4.6 |
| 3328 | Water-quality site—Type of measurement unspecified | A-26-6 | 26.4.1 |
| 3329 | Water recharge well | A-26-5 | 26.2.10 |
| 3330 | Water surface elevation | A-26-4 | 26.1.76 |
| 3331 | Water well—Capped | A-26-5 | 26.2.16 |
| 3332 | Water well converted from abandoned gas well | A-19-7 | 19.5.27 |
| 3333 | Water well converted from abandoned oil and gas well | A-19-7 | 19.5.34 |
| 3334 | Water well converted from abandoned oil well | A-19-6 | 19.5.20 |
| 3335 | Water well converted from abandoned well | A-19-7 | 19.5.37 |
| 3336 | Water well converted from dry hole | A-19-6 | 19.5.14 |
| 3337 | Water well—Shut-in | A-26-5 | 26.2.17 |
| 3338 | Water well—Type of use unspecified | A-26-5 | 26.2.1 |
| 3339 | Water well—Unused | A-26-5 | 26.2.7 |
| 3340 | Weather station—Complete | A-27-1 | 27.2 |
| 3341 | Weather station—Discontinued | A-27-1 | 27.10 |
| 3342 | Weather station—Equipped with a radio | A-27-1 | 27.12 |
| 3343 | Weather station—Equipped with a recorder | A-27-1 | 27.11 |
| 3344 | Weather station—Equipped with a telephone | A-27-1 | 27.12 |
| 3345 | Weather station—Evaporation measurement | A-27-1 | 27.5 |
| 3346 | Weather station—Humidity measurement | A-27-1 | 27.7 |
| 3347 | Weather station—Precipitation measurement | A-27-1 | 27.4 |
| 3348 | Weather station—Solar-radiation measurement | A-27-1 | 27.8 |
| 3349 | Weather station—Temperature measurement | A-27-1 | 27.6 |
| 3350 | Weather station—Type of measurement unspecified | A-27-1 | 27.1 |
| 3351 | Weather station—Wind-velocity measurement | A-27-1 | 27.9 |
| 3352 | Web-safe color | 7 | n/a |
| 3353 | Weir | A-26-3 | 26.1.41 |
| 3354 | Well, abandoned—Converted to injection well | A-19-7 | 19.5.38 |
| 3355 | Well, abandoned—Converted to water well | A-19-7 | 19.5.37 |
| 3356 | Well, flowing, as shown on general-purpose or smaller scale maps | A-26-2 | 26.1.29 |
| 3357 | Well, gas | A-19-7 | 19.5.24 |
| 3358 | Well, nonflowing, as shown on general-purpose or smaller scale maps | A-26-2 | 26.1.28 |
| 3359 | Well, oil | A-19-7 | 19.5.31 |
| 3360 | Well, oil and gas | A-19-6 | 19.5.17 |

| | | Page | Ref. No. |
|------|--|---------|-----------|
| 3361 | | | |
| 3362 | Well—Used for collection of water data | A-26-5 | 26.2.19 |
| 3363 | Well—Used for domestic-water supply | A-26-5 | 26.2.2 |
| 3364 | Well—Used for industrial-water supply | A-26-5 | 26.2.5 |
| 3365 | Well—Used for irrigation-water supply | A-26-5 | 26.2.4 |
| 3366 | Well—Used for public-water supply | A-26-5 | 26.2.6 |
| 3367 | Well—Used for stock-water supply | A-26-5 | 26.2.3 |
| 3368 | Wells drilled for hydrocarbon exploration or exploitation | A-19-6 | Sec. 19.5 |
| 3369 | West Virginia location map | A-37-2 | Sec. 37.1 |
| 3370 | Wetland | A-26-1 | 26.1.13 |
| 3371 | Wind-velocity-measurement weather station | A-27-1 | 27.9 |
| 3372 | Windmill | A-26-2 | 26.1.32 |
| 3373 | Winze | A-19-4 | 19.4.4 |
| 3374 | Winze extending through level | A-19-4 | 19.4.6 |
| 3375 | Winze foot | A-19-4 | 19.4.5 |
| 3376 | Wisconsin location map | A-37-2 | Sec. 37.1 |
| 3377 | Wood | A-10-1 | 10.2.59 |
| 3378 | Workings as mapped units | A-19-2 | Sec. 19.2 |
| 3379 | Wyoming location map | A-37-2 | Sec. 37.1 |
| 3380 | | | |
| 3381 | Y | | |
| 3382 | | | |
| 3383 | Younger glacial striations—Showing bearing and direction of flow | A-13-3 | 13.35 |
| 3384 | Younger glacial striations—Showing bearing of flow; flow direction unknown | A-13-3 | 13.37 |
| 3385 | | | |
| 3386 | Z | | |
| 3387 | | | |
| 3388 | Zeolitic rock lithologic pattern | Plate B | 716 |
| 3389 | Zone of mineralized or altered rock, type 1 | A-19-1 | 19.1.11 |
| 3390 | Zone of mineralized or altered rock, type 2—High level of mineralization | A-19-1 | 19.1.12 |
| 3391 | Zone of mineralized or altered rock, type 2—Low level of mineralization | A-19-1 | 19.1.13 |
| 3392 | Zone of sheared rock around fault | A-2-1 | 2.1.20 |
| 3393 | Zone of sheared rock within fault, type 1 | A-2-1 | 2.1.18 |
| 3394 | Zone of sheared rock within fault, type 2 | A-2-1 | 2.1.19 |